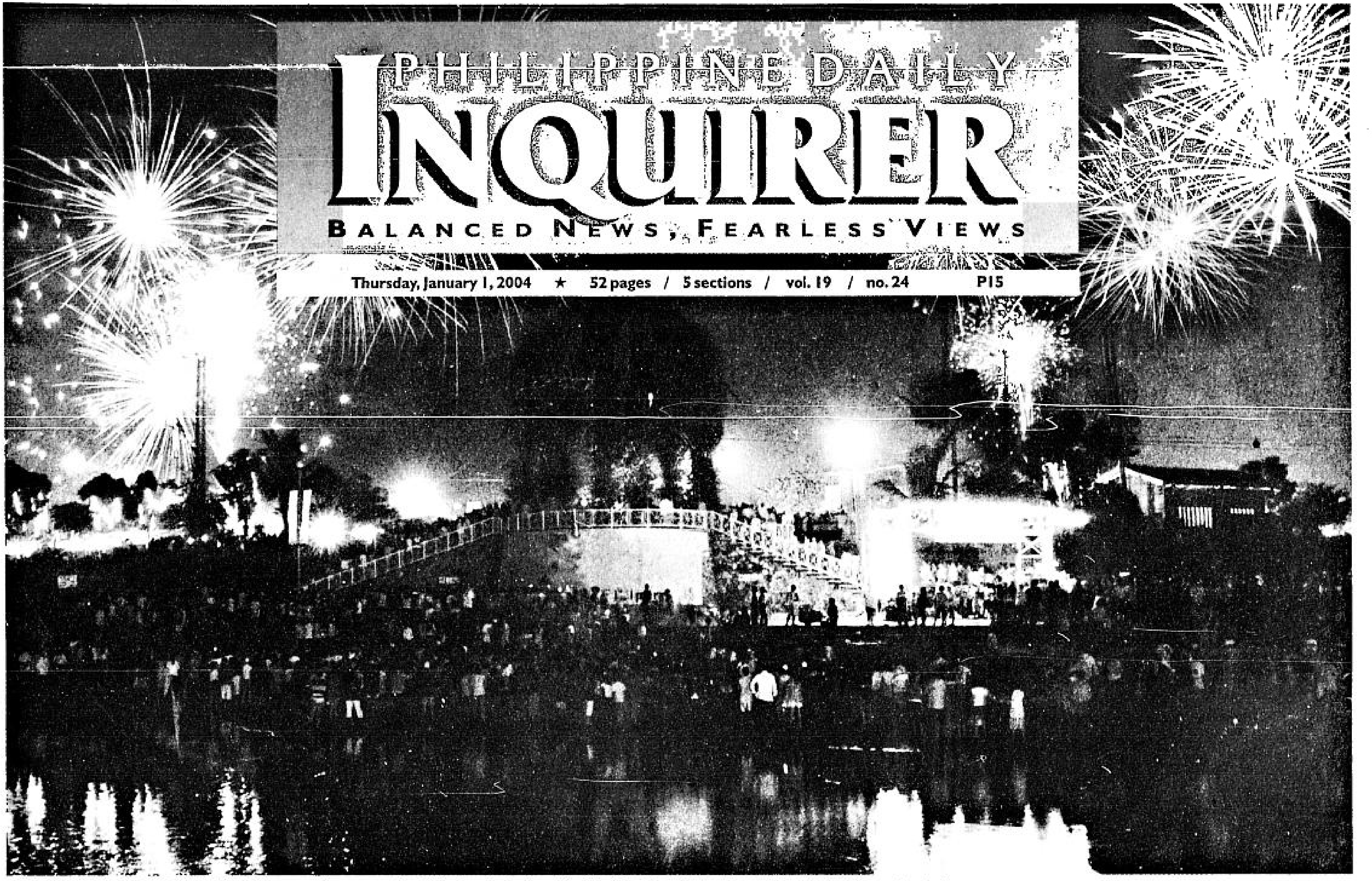
May you be blessed all the days of 2004!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, January 1, 2004 ★ 52 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 24 P15



GREAT EXPECTATIONS for the New Year are up in a spectacle of lights by the banks of the Marikina River in a preview of the revelry of a new beginning. EDWIN BACASMAS

Loren is FPJ's leading lady

Full Senate slate announced today

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ACTOR, finally, has chosen his leading lady.

Presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., speaking through Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda would be his running mate in the May 10 elections.

"I have been authorized by FPJ to make the announcement today," Sotto said, as he confirmed that Legarda was the unanimous choice of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

The announcement came some two weeks after opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. described Poe's candidacy as a "super typhoon."

"This is (storm) signal No. 1," Sotto said.

Reached for comment, Legarda simply said, "I am deeply honored."

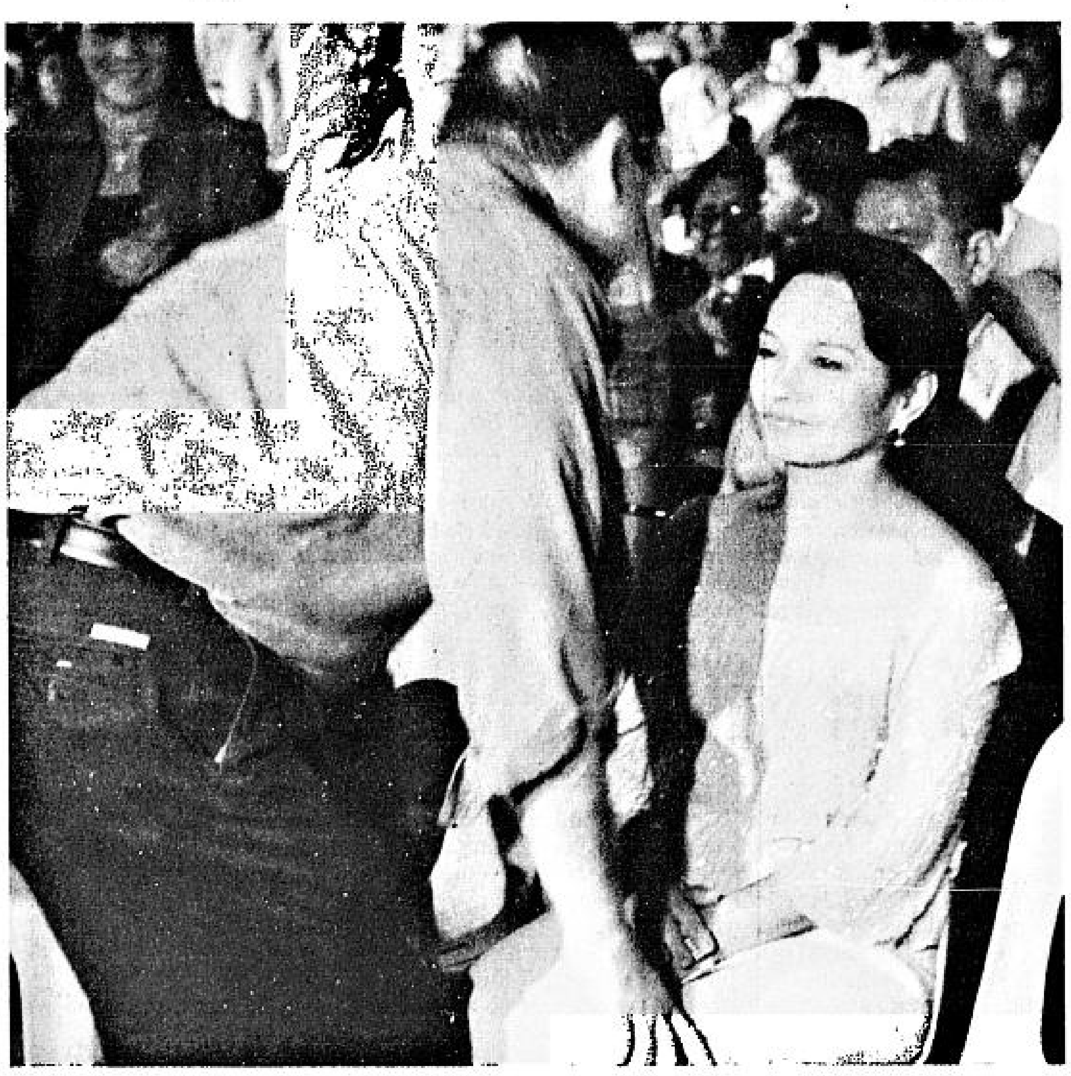
She noted that political analysts had found an FPJ-Legarda team-up "an unbeatable tandem."

She told the INQUIRER their campaign battle cry would be straight to the point: "*Malinis na panunungkulan* (Honest service). We need leaders who will put the national interest above personal interest and who will not steal the country blind."

Once elected vice president, she said, she would be a leader who would be "hands-on, firm, but compassionate."

Legarda, who rose to fame as a news reader and TV host on the ABS-CBN network, said her platform included accessible health care, quality education for all, poverty alleviation through agricultural productivity, rural empowerment, women's rights, and her favorite, en-

LOREN/ A6



A KISS IS JUST A KISS: But here comes one possibly to build a dream on for a new year's electoral prospects from Mr. Mike Arroyo to his candidate wife when he arrives to join her at the Marikina river bank for a pre-New Year celebration galore (top photo). EDWIN BACASMAS

Comeback kid: Orly in Lakas ticket

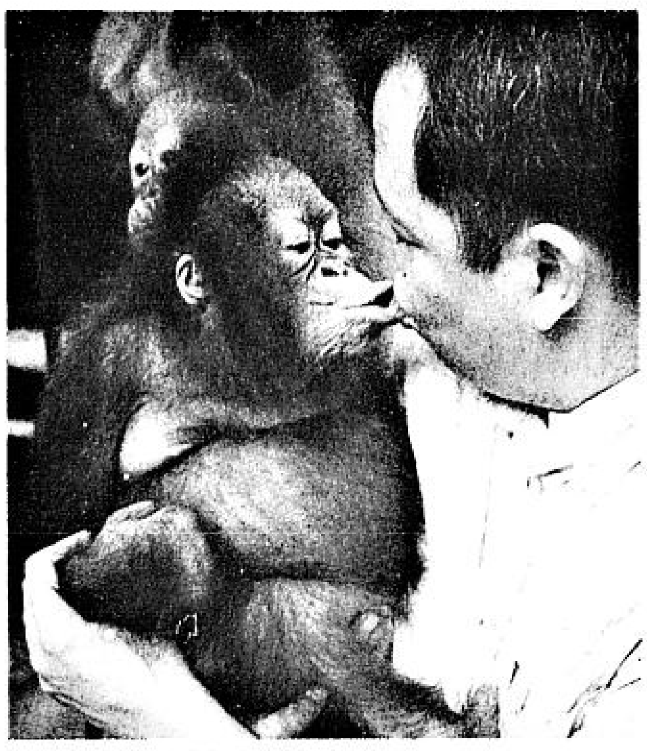
By Carlito Pablo

HOPING that the ghosts of Edsa II have been laid to rest, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado will make another comeback bid for a Senate seat in May, this time on the ticket of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's time for the nation to move forward and leave behind this issue of whether one is pro- or anti-Erap," said Mercado, who in January 2001 joined the generals led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes in withdrawing support from impeached President Joseph Estrada. Their decision forced Estrada to leave Malacañang and led to Ms Macapagal's rise to power.

Mercado acknowledged that during the campaign season, "some will again raise [the issue of] Edsa II but I believe that our people have become less emotional about this chapter of our history."

COMEBACK/ A6



KISS 2003 GOOD-BYE JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Welcome kiss for the Year of the Monkey which will be ushered in by the Chinese New Year next month. But Malabon Zoo owner Manny Tangco gets a headstart by kissing Assunta and Alessandra, the first baby orangutans born at the zoo.

Roco asked: Who he? Why him?

By Dona Pazzibugan and Carlito Pablo

WHO he? Why him?

These questions continue to swirl round and round the choice of the running mate of presidential contender Raul Roco: Herminio "Hermie" Aquino.

Astute political observers say that Roco's surprise choice is as surprising as his choice of running mate when he went for the presidency in 1998: Irene "Inday" Santiago, a civic leader and political neophyte.

Though Aquino is no political neophyte, he's not a national political figure even if he's a member of the famed political Aquino clan of

ROCO/ A6

Headlines that touched Filipinos in US in 2003

By Percy D. Della
West Coast Correspondent

SACRAMENTO, California—Filipinos in the United States rode an emotional roller coaster in 2003. They laughed, they cried, they celebrated. And the news struck closer to home last year more than at any time in the past.

The following were the top news headlines, not listed in chronological order, that touched Filipinos in America in 2003, all of which appeared in the INQUIRER as staff or wire reports:

- President Bush finally signs legislation granting Filipino WWII veterans health benefits.

In the last month of the year, the US President signed the bill giving Filipino-American veterans of the Second World War full benefits, including long-delayed health benefits and veteran burial rights.

The Filipinos, who had been enlisted to fight the war against the Japanese in the Philippines, had been promised the same health and pension benefits as American soldiers after the war. But with anti-Asian sentiment running strong just before the Pacific War ended, President Truman signed the Rescission Act of 1946 that reneged on that promise.

In the next 60 years, the US Congress moved slowly to recognize the sacrifices made by the Filipino World War II veterans. Only in 1990, for instance, did it allow Filipino veterans living in the United States to become citizens.

As the Los Angeles Times newspaper editorialized after the passage of the Fil-Am veterans health benefits bill: "And now, at

HEADLINES A5

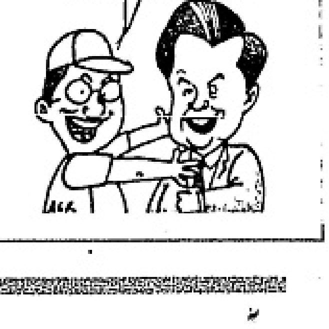
Noli authored 2 bills in 30 months

By Norman Bordadora

WHO says Kabayan has not done anything as a senator? According to his supporters, the President's running mate has been authoring bills in the Senate at the frantic pace of, well, one every 15 months.

Supporters of Sen. Noli "Kabayan" de Castro yesterday tried to counter criti-

NOLI/ A6



DI LANG NAGSASALITA, PERO MAY GINAWA SYA! 2 BILLS IN 2½ YEARS!
LACA

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with rains while Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/01/01/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy

'Abducted boy cried a lot in captivity'

CALAMBA CITY—Residents of a middle-class subdivision here never imagined that the boy they called *"Beinte kuwatro oras* junior." (24 hours jr.) was actually a kidnap victim.

The owner of a *sari-sari* store beside the three-bedroom bungalow where police rescued the kidnap victim on Tuesday said residents of the Pamana Homes subdivision in Barangay Bucal were frequently roused from their sleep by the loud wailing of the two-year-old boy, the son of a Chinese-Filipino businessman who was kidnapped on Dec. 2 in Muntinlupa City.

"The boy would cry almost the entire day. That's why we called him '24 hours jr.' But they were always keeping him inside the room. His crying was really loud," the storeowner, who requested anonymity, said in Filipino.

They called the kidnapped toddler "junior" because a three-year-old daughter of his "caretaker," Wyte Patrana, also annoyed the residents with her irritating crying.

She said several residents had complained about the noise that the toddlers were making but Patrana would always assure them that it would not happen again.

Police arrested Patrana during the rescue. She was identified as a member of the Waray group of a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Only a few hours before police rescued the boy at dawn on Tuesday, residents said they could hear him crying.

Resident Rodolfo Granada said they never suspected anything wrong, even with the the boy's incessant wailing, because they were used to loud crying from Patrana's daughter.

He said Patrana had another daughter in the house a few months before who also cried a lot.

But while the police identified the female suspect as Patrana, residents said she had introduced herself to them as Rose Abignay and her husband as Alex.

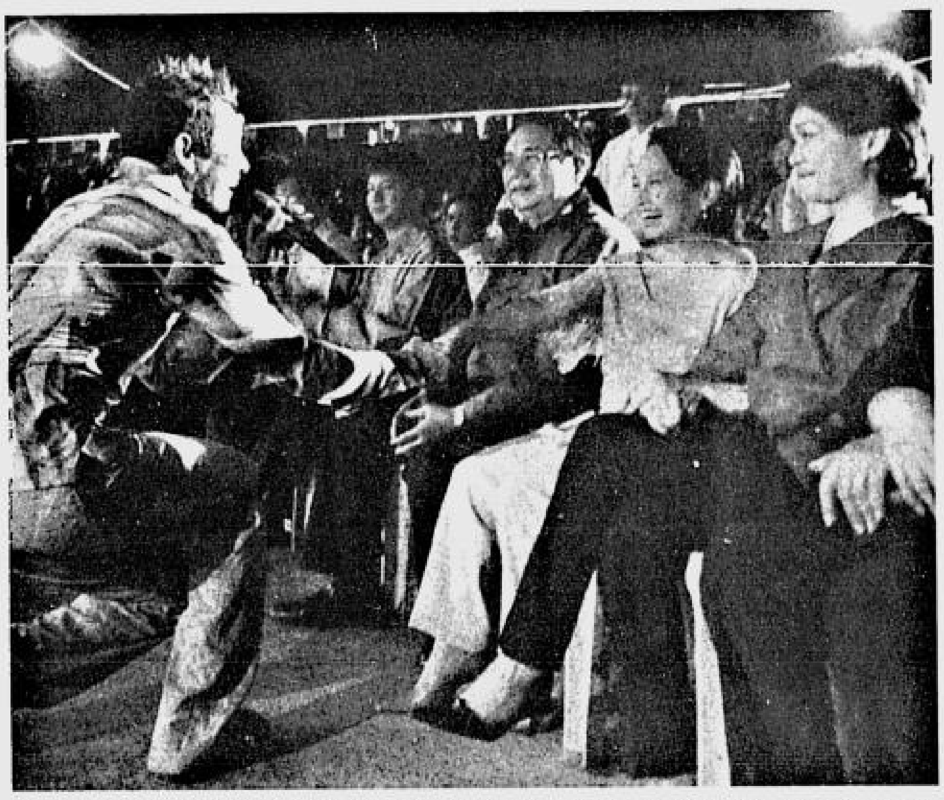
Granada said the Abignays moved to the bungalow about three months ago and shared the house with a couple who were their supposed cousins.

Granada said Alex was friendly but seemed to be very nervous and preoccupied.

He said he and some other residents had several drinking sessions with him but they did not notice anything unusual.

In early December, Granada said they suddenly saw a little boy in the house. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

4 suspected kidnappers killed



'MR. PURE Energy' Gary Valenciano entertains the crowd led by President Macapagal and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo at the Riverbank in Marikina yesterday. The free New Year party is an annual event hosted by the city led by Mayor Marides C. Fernando (right). EDWIN BACASMAS

By Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE KILLED four suspected kidnappers of a two-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy in a shoot-out early yesterday morning in Mabitac, Laguna, nearly 24 hours after one of their accomplices was arrested and the boy was rescued.

Joint operatives of the National Anti- Kidnapping Task Force (Naktf) and the Philippine National Police Region 4 command killed the suspects identified as Ronald and Rogelio Ramoso, Ricky Orihinal, and a still unidentified person during a brief but fierce firefight.

Based on identification taken from the suspects, Orihinal was a resident of Kaunlaran St., Bukid Kaingin, Quezon City; Ronald was from Lubang Pututan, Iloilo City, while his brother Rogelio lived in Barangay Langgam, San Pedro, Laguna.

Police spotted the group in Lumban, Laguna on board a gray Mitsubishi Lancer which the suspects allegedly used in the abduction of the boy.

The suspects opened fire and then sped away toward Kalayaan, Laguna. A running gunbattle ensued until the suspects' vehicle smashed into a hillside in Barangay Putat, Mabitac, Laguna. Four men in the car ran out and exchanged fire with pursuing police but were killed.

Recovered from the suspects were one Carbine, two .38 cal. revolvers and a hand grenade.

The bodies of the suspects were brought to the Balobayan Funeral Parlor in Mabitac, Laguna.

Naktf spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando told reporters that the kidnap case has been solved with the killing of the four suspects.

Naktf spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando told reporters that the kidnap case has been solved with the killing of the four suspects.

"We are considering this case solved with the death of four suspects and the arrest of one suspect in the case," Servando said.

The boy, a son of a Chinese-Filipino businessman, was taken at gunpoint last Dec. 2 in Muntinlupa City. *With reports from Marlon Ramos and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP, AP*

GMA: Time to nurture dreams

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday shared the optimism of most Filipinos who said they would welcome the New Year with hope rather than fear.

In her New Year message, Ms Macapagal said: "Every new year is a symbol of hope. It is time to nurture new dreams."

The lat est Social Weather Stations survey release d on Tuesday showed that 90 percent of Filipinos were optimistic about their prospects in the new year.

The President said she would "continue to strive for good governance, food for each table, jobs, and peace and security in every community.

"I will continue to work for the good of the Filipino family and of the children, like the ones here, who remain hopeful that they will have a truly prosperous nation," the President said.

In an interview over dzRB radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the SWS results were a "good signal," considering especially what the country went through last year.

Bunye said the President spent the New Year in Metro Manila after she skipped her family's traditional Christmas holiday in Baguio.

After giving out homes to the city's squatters, President Macapagal has set her sights on providing water to Metro Manila's slums.

The President is planning to dip into the funds of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to purchase 200 water tankers that would deliver water to urban poor communities in Metro Manila.

In a briefing at the Payatas estate in Quezon City, the President said Pagcor would head a newly formed task force that would oversee the fulfillment of the government's commitment to provide safe and adequate water to Metro Manila residents, specifically those living in slums.

"By the time we celebrate the anniversaries of Edsa 1 and 2, I hope that we have provided waterless communities with water purifiers, artesian wells, direct water connections, water tanks and tankers," the President said.

The President said providing direct water connections to waterless communities should drastically lower the price of water from P200 per cubic liter to only P20. "This is an essential service which is the right of all citizens of whatever income level," the President said. The project is expected to benefit 6,000 households in Metro Manila.

In a press statement, presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao said the President wants Pagcor to earmark part of its multi-billion-peso earnings for the purchase of water tankers that would ferry water to depressed areas in Metro Manila.

FLAMES billow from the Footluckers shoe store in Lucena City, one of the establishments razed by a fire caused by firecrackers. DELFIN T. MALLARI

15 killed in Lucena City fire caused by 'crackers

LUCENA CITY—The dangers imposed by firecrackers were borne out in Lucena City yesterday after a noon fire killed 15 people, their bodies charred beyond recognition, caused 22 others to go missing and destroyed millions of pesos in property.

Lucena City police Chief Supt. Edgar Layon did not identify the victims whose remains were being dug out of the debris at press time.

More burned bodies were believed to be buried under the rubble. Three persons were rushed to hospital.

Six commercial building were totally burned, Layon said.

The three-hour blaze started in the rows of stores along Juarez St. near the city market.

Destroyed by the fire were several retail establishments located along Merchan and Juarez Streets.

The second floor of the Footluckers shoe store was heavily damaged by the fire that began a few minutes past noon.

Witnesses told police a loud explosion was heard in the area where several rows of firecracker peddlers had their wares displayed on the sidewalk.

The rattling boom could be heard all over the city. Local firemen, assisted by firefighters from neighboring towns, prevented the blaze from spreading and reaching a gasoline station across the street.

Ironically, for the merchants in the area, the first things they ran to save were their boxes and bundles of firecrackers and pyrotechnics.

"We will pay for these firecrackers whether they were destroyed by the fire or not. We still owe for the cost of this products," one of the merchants told the INQUIRER. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Archbishop: 2004 will be crucial for RP

By Blanche S. Rivera

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales yesterday asked Filipinos to pray hard for the country this year, saying that 2004 "promises to be a crucial one" because of the presidential elections.

In his New Year message, Rosales also urged the people to remain hopeful about the year ahead and continue to entrust to God the fate of the country.

"In spite of the woes of the past year, we continue to believe in God's providence and strength. In the face of the lurking trials of the coming year, we bravely clothe ourselves with Christian hope," Rosales said.

The year 2003 proved to be a test of stability and faith for the government which faced the Oakwood mutiny, the Jose Pidal exposes and persistent bickering in government, Leyte landslides and kidnappings.

Politicians, from Malacanang to local executives, are now busy preparing for their 2004 election bids. Many have sought the blessings and endorsement of the Catholic Church.

But Rosales, who replaced a very politicized Manila archbishop, has stressed that he would "never" endorse any political candidate although he said that there would be guidance from the Catholic Church.

"I'm not a political connoisseur and I am not an expert in political menus... But there will be guidance," he said in an earlier press briefing.

Rosales said that he was working on a project that was far from political and which he hoped to launch early this year.

He declined to divulge details but said that the project would follow a vision he has for Manila, the most powerful archdiocese in the country and the seat of power for Catholic clergy.

He said it would be a people-building, nation-building endeavor.

Rosales also said that he has contacted the bishops and parish priests in Manila for their support.

"It has nothing to do with politics. Political involvement is absolutely minus zero but it will address the personhood of every Filipino who has faith in a good God," Rosales said of the project.

"We are selling something that God wants us to become, we are giving direction where God wants us to go, receding absolutely from politics," he added.

Rosales, installed on Nov. 21 to replace Jaime Cardinal Sin, has stressed that he considered it treason for any leader, political or religious, to govern a people without any vision.

President Manuel Roxas' 112th birthday marked today

By Armin Adina
Research

THE COUNTRY celebrates today the 112th birth anniversary of President Manuel A. Roxas.

Roxas holds the distinction of being the only president who led two Philippine governments.

He was the last president of the Philippine Commonwealth and the first president of the Third Philippine Republic, which is currently in place.

Roxas was the first bar topnotcher to hold the highest post in.the land. He got a 92-percent rating in the bar exams.

Born in the municipality of Capiz (later renamed Roxas City in his honor) in the province of Capiz in 1892 to Gerardo Roxas and Rosario Acuña, Roxas had his basic education in schools in Capiz, Hong Kong and Manila.

. He obtained his law degree from the University of the Philippines where he graduated with honors in 1913.

After a brief stint as a trial lawyer, he served in the office of Supreme Court Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano. He taught law at the same time.

In 1919, he was exposed to public service after he successfully won the governorship of his home province. At 27, he was the youngest governor of Capiz. He was also elected chairman of the national convention of provincial governors.

In 1922, Roxas won a seat in Congress, beating more experienced politicians. He was later elected Speaker of the House of Representatives and held on to the post for 11 years. During his tenure at the House, he led the Philippine Independence Mission to Washington D.C. He was joined by then Sen. Sergio Osmeña in 1923. The Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act was then being debated in the US Congress. Both chambers of the US Congress passed the bill but it was vetoed by President Herbert Hoover. However, the US legislature overrode the veto and the "Os-Rox" mission returned to the country as heroes.

But then Senate President Manuel Quezon was not happy with the law and succeeded in having it rejected by the Philippine legislature. This caused a rift among the three leaders.

Quezon reorganized the Philippine Congress and Roxas was toppled from his post. It was then that Roxas made the classic statement that in falling from the pedestal of the Speakership, he had the satisfaction of falling into the arms of the people.

Quezon led a renewed independence mission to the US and came back with the Tydings-McDuffie Law, a virtual reenactment of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act with minor amendments. The law endeared Quezon to the people and Roxas was relegated to the opposition.

Roxas later won representation to the Constitutional Convention for Philippine Independence in 1934. He took the finance portfolio under President Quezon and won a senatorial seat before the outbreak of World War II in 1941. During the war, he ably led his forces to battle.

Roxas assumed the leadership of the country in 1946 when he became President of the Philippine Commonwealth. When the Philippines declared its independence from America on July 4 of the same year, he became the president of the new Philippine Republic.

But Roxas' presidency was cut to only two years after he suffered a fatal heart attack during an occasion at Clark Air Base in Pampanga on April 15, 1948.

His legacy was carried on by his son Gerry Roxas who became a senator. Present senatorial aspirant Manuel 'Mar' Roxas II is his grandson.

ROXAS

Comelec fails to resolve LDP split over top bet

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday failed to resolve the split in the opposition's ranks, saying that Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino bets would have to file their certificates of candidacy as "independents."

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said only two of the poll body's six commissioners showed up at the meeting that was supposed to resolve the impasse in the LDP after one faction said it was supporting Fernando Poe Jr. and another Sen. Panfilo Lacson for standard-bearer of the party in the 2004 elections.

"I have ordered election officers to accept their (LDP candidates') certificates of candidacy. In the meantime, they will have to file as independents," said Abalos in a phone interview yesterday.

The LDP is split between two factions, the one backing Poe is led by its chair Sen. Edgardo Angara, while the other which supports Lacson is led by secretary general Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino.

The two factions brought the issue before the Comelec to decide, with Angara saying that only he, as the party chair, had the authority to nominate the party's candidates.

The other camp, however, maintained that traditionally it was the secretary general—Aquino—who nominated the party's official candidates.

Abalos said only he and Commissioner Mehol Sadain showed up for yesterday's hearing, as the other commissioners either had health problems or other meetings connected with their election duties.

"There is no problem, we can meet either on Jan. 2 or 5, way before the printing of the ballots," Abalos said.

The Comelec is set to print the ballots for the May 10 elections in February.

The LDP faction led by Angara had asked the Comelec to resolve the issue of their standard-bearer as soon as possible.

"Today there is confusion. Confusion in the party, confusion among the public and even confusion among the Comelec. We'd like the issue resolved right here and now because we have but five or six days to file our certificates," Angara faction lawyer Demaree Raval told the Comelec during an earlier hearing.

At the same hearing, Abalos had asked both parties if they were willing to give the authority to nominate the party's standard-bearer to the LDP executive vice chair but this was opposed by the Lacson camp which pointed out that this official was Sen. Vicente Sotto, one of Poe's biggest supporters.

Reds predict GMA defeat in May polls

By Norman Bordadora

THE COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines expects President Macapagal-Arroyo to be trounced by her opponents in the May 2004 elections and widespread protests to arise if she is declared the winner of the presidential polls.

"The broad masses of the people consider Ms Macapagal a liar for declaring on Dec. 30, 2002 that she would not run for president and then going back on her word after a few months," said CPP central committee chair Armando Liwanag.

Liwanag said there is widespread expectation that the President cannot win the election unless she engages in vote-buying or manipulates the newly adopted computer technology for the vote count.

The dire forecast of Ms Macapagal's chances in the elections was contained in the document "Boldly Advance the Philippine Revolution Amidst Worsening Global and National Crisis," which the CPP released in time for its 35th anniversary on Dec. 26.

"(Her) political rivals are preparing to rouse the people to make gigantic mass protests and to call for military intervention by their collaborators within the reactionary armed forces," Liwanag added.

Armando Liwanag is the nom de guerre of self-exiled National Democratic Front chief political consultant and CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison.

"Whoever would come out second to her, former Sen. Raul Roco or movie star Fernando Poe, Jr., a broad united front can easily arise to hold her accountable for stealing the election," Liwanag said.

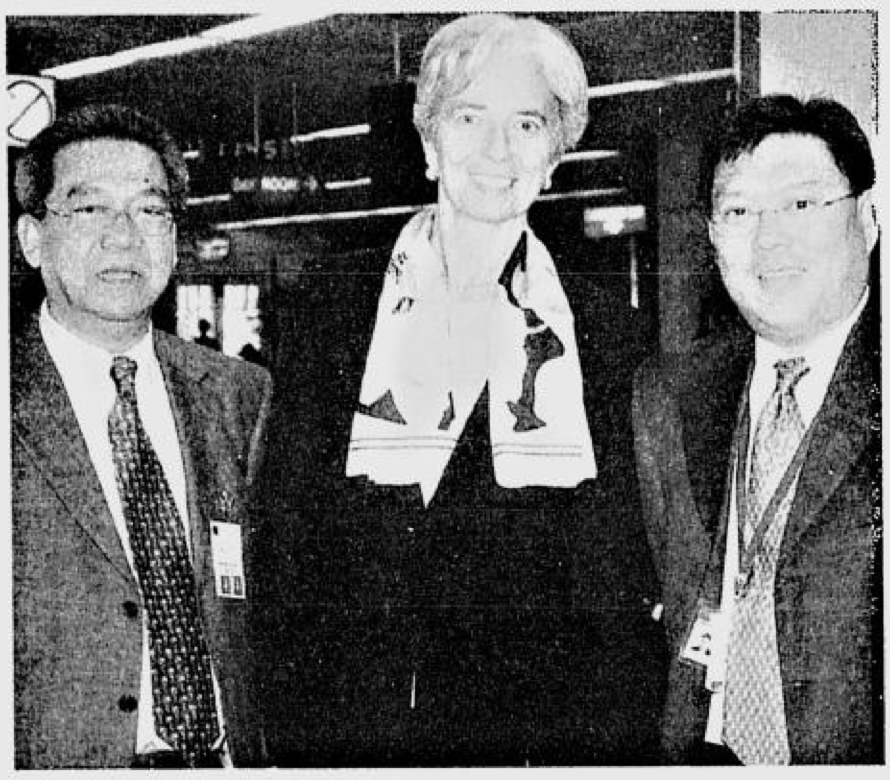
In the same document, the CPP claimed credit for the broad alliance of people's organizations that was vital to the success of People Power I and People Power II that catapulted former President Corazon Aquino and Ms Macapagal to power.

"There are some progressive parties and candidates vying for positions at levels lower than the presidency and the Senate. These can take advantage of the popular disgust at the most powerful reactionary parties and politicians and the contradictions among the reactionary parties and candidates," Liwanag said.

Liwanag expressed optimism that progressive candidates "can win a noteworthy number of seats in Congress unless the imperialists and the local reactionaries exert special efforts to cut off their chances."

"As a matter of revolutionary principles, the Party does not believe that electoral struggle is the most effective way for the national and social liberation of the people," he said.

But Liwanag said the CPP considers the approaches of political parties and candidates within the framework of the united front.



LAW FIRM'S 40TH
Christine Lagarde, chair of the Global Executive Committee of Baker & Mackenzie, an international law firm, is welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Romeo Salonga and Chris Lim, senior partners at the Quisumbing Torres Law Office. Lagarde is in town for the 40th anniversary of Quisumbing Torres, which is affiliated with Baker & Mackenzie.

Bomb explodes near Jolo Army camp, killing civilian

ZAMBOANGA—A powerful homemade bomb exploded near a military camp on the island of Jolo yesterday, killing a civilian who had handled the explosive that was part of a suspected attack by Muslim militants, officials said.

The bomb had been planted on a roadside near the Army's brigade headquarters on the outskirts of Jolo's capital. It exploded when a tricycle driver handled it, said Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, Southern Command civil military operations chief.

The 60-year-old tricycle driver apparently found a plastic water jug containing the bomb along a road in Kasulutan village and placed it in his motorcycle, where it exploded, killing him in a blast heard a few kilometers away, officials and witnesses said.

The device was made of an electronic trigger mechanism rigged to a.container apparently filled with gasoline and other chemicals, Covarrubias said.

It was not clear who had planted the bomb, but the military suspects said it was the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf.

Jolo military commander Col. Alexander Yapching said Abu Sayyaf rebels may have placed the bomb on the road to target soldiers passing by.

An investigation was underway to determine if the victim was an innocent villager or a rebel intending to plant the explosive, Yapching said in a telephone interview.

He said the bomb attack, the second in a week, may have been in retaliation for the capture earlier this month of Abu Sayyaf commander Ghalib Andang in Jolo.

Andang, who sustained gunshot wounds, is being detained in a military hospital in Manila.

Two homemade bombs were found near Jolo's airport on Friday. One exploded as soldiers attempted to defuse it, killing one and injuring another. The military also suspected that Abu Sayyaf guerrillas planted those bombs.

Troops, backed by US military logistical assistance, have been waging sporadic assaults on the ragtag Muslim guerrillas, believed to number several hundred. The rebels rose to international prominence when they sailed to neighboring Malaysia in 2000 and kidnapped 21 people, including 10 Western tourists.

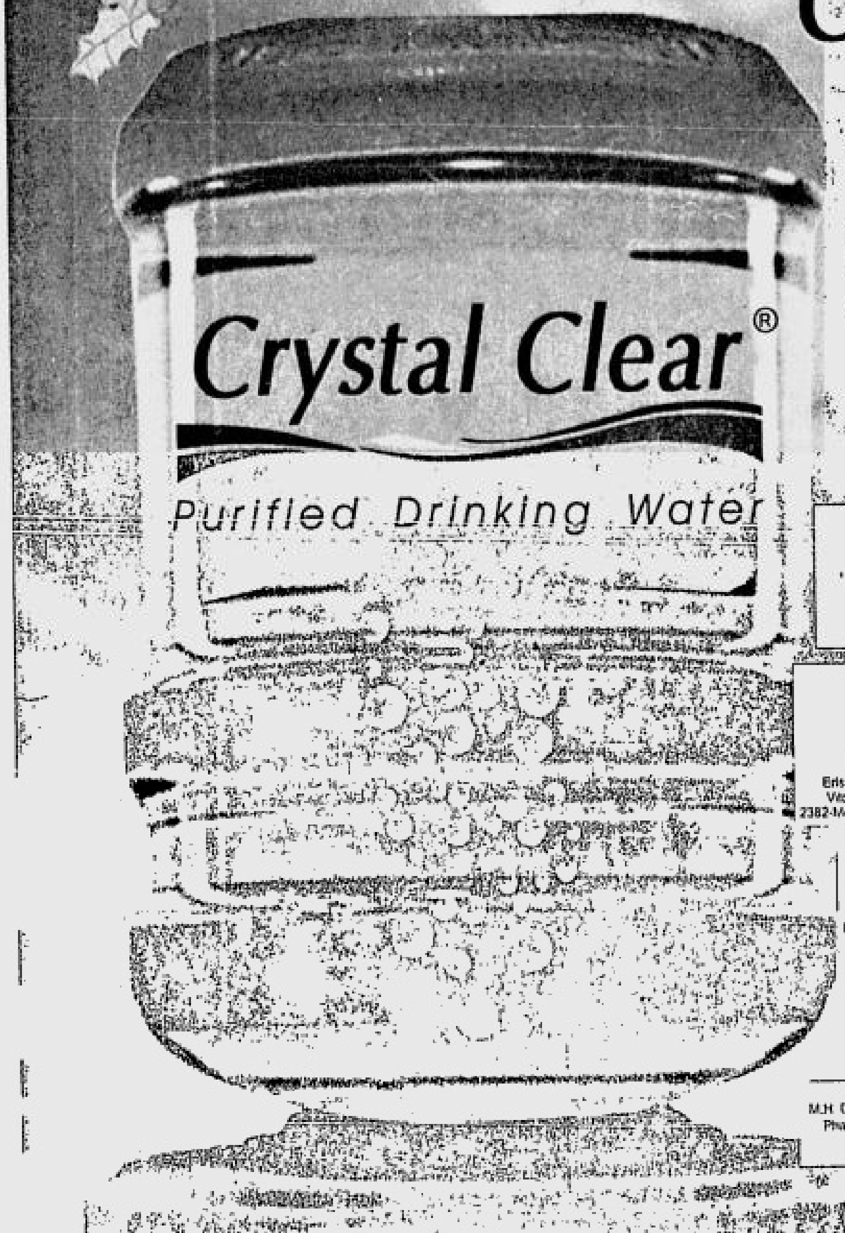
They brought the hostages to their jungle camps in Jolo and eventually released them after payment of huge ransoms reportedly financed by Libya. *AFP, AP*

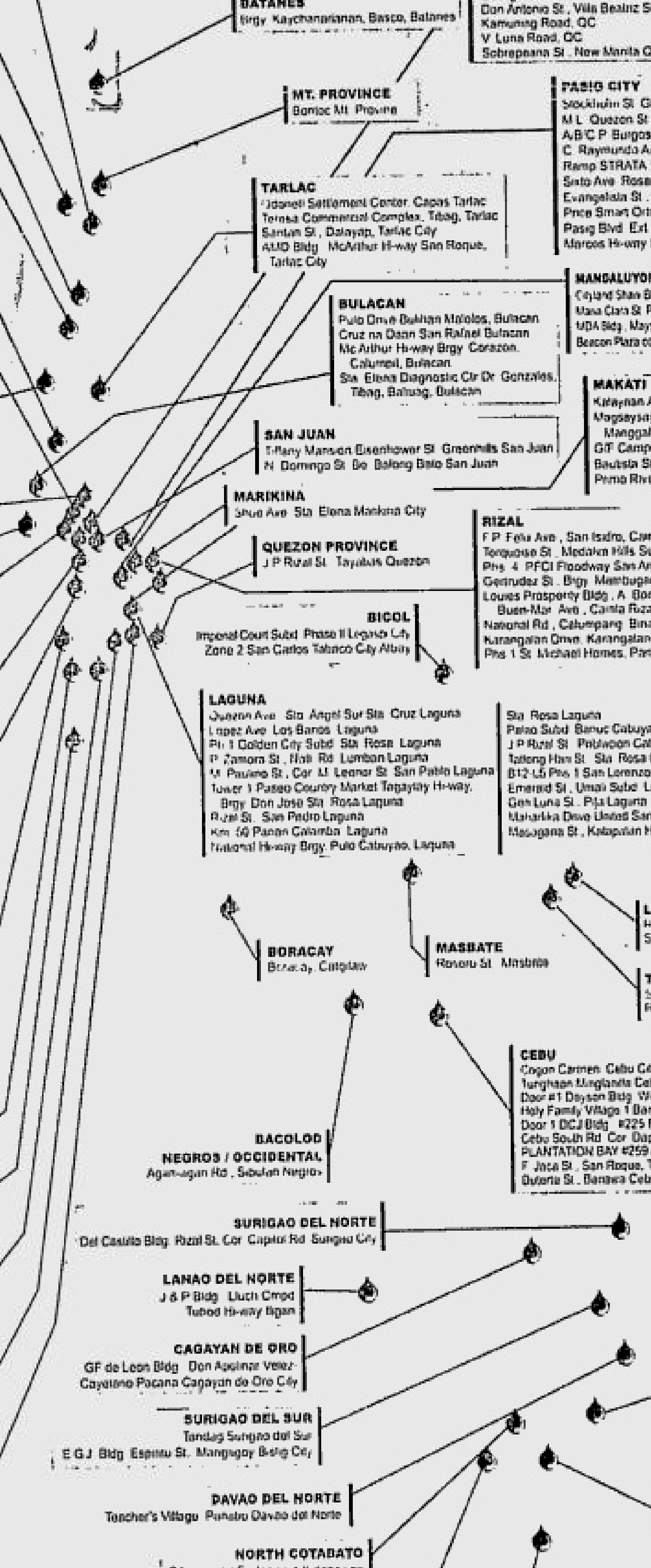
TOKYO ♥ OSAKA ♥ MANILA
Teriyaki BOY
"The first-fast casual Japanese Restaurant"
太った少年
NOW OPEN
CHEFS AVENUE FESTIVAL MALL, ALABANG
いらっしゃいませ

big surprise©
Turn to page C4 and find out!
Everyone will be talking about it.

Christmas Cheers to all who've helped make Crystal Clear® what it is today!

from 250 Crystal Clear® Water Stores





ABRA
Poblacion Pidigan Abra

CAGAYAN VALLEY
Centro 4 Claveria, Cagayan Valley

LA UNION
Bauang Commercial Complex Bauang, La Union

DAGUPAN
Zamora St., Dagupan City

PAMPANGA
4th St., Paraiso, Sindalan San Fernando Pampanga
Fatima Village Sta. Cruz,Porac Pampanga
Sto. Rosarion St. San Jose Angeles City Pampanga
Mc Arthur Hi-way, 2009 Angeles City Pampanga
Paralaya St., San Matias, Sto. Tomas Pampanga
Brgy. Nueva Victoria Mexico, Pampanga
Kalapan Village San Fernando, Pampanga
Sto. Cristo, Masangsang Mexico, Pampanga

MANILA
Blumentritt St. cor España Sampaloc Manila
A. Quintos St. cor. Firmeza Sampaloc Manila
Delos Reyes St., Sampaloc, Manila
P. Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
Casa Malvar Bldg., Malvar St., Singalong, Manila
D&EM Earnshaw, Sampaloc, Manila
Erisha Condominium Dian cor. P. Ocampo St. Malate
Vito Cruz Tower Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate Manila
2382-Mercurio St. Cor. Dagonoy San Andres Bukid Manila

ZAMBALES / OLONGAPO
Bgy. Rosete San Felipe Zambales
Bgy. San Narciso Zambales
Calapandayan Subic Zambales
E. National Rd. Brgy. Rizal San Antonio Zambales
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo

VALENZUELA
Duhat St. San Antonio Subd. Dalandanan
Valenzuela City

MALABON
Mc. Arthur Hi-way Malabon

CALOOCAN
M.H. Del Pilar cor. 6th & 7th Ave., Grace Park Caloocan City
Phase 8, A Blk. 161 Lot 16, Bagong Silang Caloocan City
Samson Rd. Caloocan City
Heronimo St., Caloocan City

PASAY
Mornington Place Taft Ave. Cor Vitaroof St. Pasay City
Bonanza St. Don Carlos Village Pasay City
Pildera II Ninoy Aquino Ave. Pasay City
Taft Ave. Ext. Cor. EDSA Pasay City

MUNTINLUPA
National Road Putatan Muntinlupa
Lacog St. Alabang Hills Village 1789 Muntinlupa

CAVITE
Santan Road Sea Breeze Subd. Cavite City
Binakayan Kawit Cavite
Flourine cor. Carbon Sts.,Golden City Subd. Aguinaldo H-way Dasmariñas Cavite
Red St., Camella Homes North Spring Villa Molino Bacoor Cavite
JK Mata Street Rosario Cavite City
Salitran Rd., St. Anthony Village Salitran 3 Dasmariñas Cavite
Potente Bldg., Gen Trias St. Cavite
C Katherine Cmpd Molave St. Dimasalang Subd Poblacion Imus Cavite
Dra. Salamanca St. San Roque, Cavite City
Ph. 7 ACM Woodstock Homes, Alapan Imus Cavite
Meadowood Subd., Bacoor Cavite

TAGAYTAY CITY
Crossing West Mendez, Tagaytay City

MINDORO
Francisco St., Mar Francisco Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro
F. Alcaldo St., Cor. Capitol Rd. Brgy 9 Mamburao Occidental Mindoro

BATANGAS
Makalinta Ave., San Jose, Batangas City
Sta. Rita Batangas
Marauoy Lipa Batangas
San Miguel, Sto. Tomas Batangas

PARAÑAQUE / TAGUIG
Col. Ballecer St., Signal Village Taguig
Champaca St., Western Bicutan Taguig
Severina Ave. Km. 18 Parañaque
Barcelona St. Merville Subd. Parañaque
Lopez Ave. San Isidro Sucat Parañaque
Kamagong St. Multi National Village Phs. 4, Parañaque

LAS PIÑAS
Macuja St., DBP Vil. Almanza Las Piñas
CAA Rd. San Antonio Valley 7 Las Piñas

BATANES
Brgy. Kaychanarianan, Basco, Batanes

QUEZON CITY
Susano Road Novaliches, QC
Liberty St. Cor 8th Ave. Cubao, QC
Cluster 8, Unit D, Greenhills, Garden Square, Santolan Rd., QC
Katipunan Road, St., Ignatius Village, QC
Short horn St., Project 8, QC
Blk30 Lot 7 Juan Luna St., New Capitol, QC
ABS-CBN Cmpd. Sgt. Esguerra St. Mother Ignacia St., QC
CO NO. 5 & 6 cor. Ind St. & Arayat St., Cubao, QC
Evangelista cor. Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights QC
Don Antonio St., Villa Beatriz Subd., Old Balara, QC
Kamuning Road, QC
V. Luna Road, QC
Sobrepeana St., New Manila QC

MT. PROVINCE
Bontoc Mt. Provine

PASIG CITY
Stockholm St. Green Park Village Pasig
M.L. Quezon St. Lifehomes Subd. Pasig City
A,B/C P. Burgos St. San Jose Pasig City
C. Raymundo Ave., Tramo Pasig City
Ramp STRATA 100 Emerald Ave. Pasig City
Sixto Ave. Rosario Pasig City
Evangelista St., Santolan Pasig City
Price Smart Ortigas Ave., Pasig City
Pasig Blvd. Ext. Rotonda Pasig City
Marcos Hi-way Santolan Pasig City

TARLAC
Odonell Settlement Center, Capas Tarlac
Teresa Commercial Complex, Tibag, Tarlac
Santan St., Dalayap, Tarlac City
AUD Bldg. McArthur Hi-way San Roque,
Tarlac City

MANDALUYONG
Cityland Shaw Blvd. cor. St. Francis St. Mandaluyong City
Maria Clara St. Plainview Mandaluyong City
MDA Bldg., Mayslo Mandaluyong City
Beacon Plaza cor. Ideal st. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City

BULACAN
Pulo Drive Bukhan Malolos, Bulacan
Cruz na Daan San Rafael Bulacan
Mc Arthur Hi-way Brgy. Corazon,
Calumpit, Bulacan
Sta. Elena Diagnostic Ctr Dr. Gonzales,
Tibag, Baliuag, Bulacan

MAKATI
Kalayaan Ave. Guadalupe Nuevo Makati City
Magsaysay Ave. Unit 6-A cor.
Manggahan St. Guadalupe Nuevo Mkt City
G/F Campos Rueda Bldg., Urban Ave.
Bautista St. San Isidro
Primo Rivera St., La Paz

SAN JUAN
Tiffany Mansion Eisenhower St. Greenhills San Juan
N. Domingo St. Bo. Balong Bato San Juan

MARIKINA
Shoe Ave. Sta. Elena Marikina City

QUEZON PROVINCE
J.P. Rizal St. Tayabas Quezon

RIZAL
F.P. Felix Ave., San Isidro, Cainta Rizal
Torquoise St., Medalim Hills Subd., Angono Rizal
Phs. 4 PFCI Floodway San Andres, Cainta Rizal
Gertrudez St., Brgy. Mambugan, Antipolo City
Louies Prosperity Bldg., A. Bonifacio Ave., Cor.
Buen-Mar Ave., Cainta Rizal
National Rd., Calumpang Binangonan, Rizal
Karangalan Drive, Karangalan Vill., Cainta Rizal
Phs. 1 St. Michael Homes, Pantok Binangonan Rizal

BICOL
Imperial Court Subd. Phase II Legaspi City
Zone 2 San Carlos Tabaco City Albay

LAGUNA
Quezon Ave. Sta. Angel Sur Sta. Cruz Laguna
Lopez Ave. Los Baños Laguna
Ph. 1 Golden City Subd. Sta. Rosa Laguna
P. Zamora St., Nati Rd. Lumban Laguna
M. Paulino St., Cor. M. Leonor St. San Pablo Laguna
Tower 1 Paseo Country Market Tagaytay Hi-way,
Brgy. Don Jose Sta. Rosa Laguna
Rizal St. San Pedro Laguna
Km. 50 Panan Calamba Laguna
National Hi-way Brgy. Pulo Cabuyao, Laguna
Sta. Rosa Laguna
Palao Subd. Banuc Cabuyao Laguna
J.P. Rizal St. Poblacion Cabuyao Laguna
Tatlong Hari St. Sta. Rosa Laguna
B12-L5 Phs. 1 San Lorenzo South Balibago Sta. Rosa Laguna
Emerald St., Umali Subd. Los Baños Laguna
Gen Luna St., Pila Laguna
Maharlika Drive United San Pedro Subd., San Pedro Laguna
Masagana St., Katapatan Homes, Cabuyao Laguna

BORACAY
Boracay, Caticlan

MASBATE
Rosero St. Masbate

LEYTE
Romualdez Ave. Brgy.
San Antonio, Alangalang, Leyte

TACLOBAN CITY
Stall #2 JCR Arcade, Apitong
Rd., Tacloban City

CEBU
Cogon Carmen Cebu City
Tunghaan Minglanilla Cebu
Door #1 Daysan Bldg. Wireless, Mandaue City
Holy Family Village 1 Banilad Cebu City
Door 1 DCJ Bldg. #225 Rizal St. Ibabao Mandaue Cebu City
Cebu South Rd. Cor. Dap-Dap Mambaling Cebu City
PLANTATION BAY #259 A Don Jose Avila St. Cebu City
F. Jaca St., San Roque, Talisay Cebu
Duterte St., Banawa Cebu City

BACOLOD
NEGROS / OCCIDENTAL
Agan-agan Rd., Sibulan Negros

SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Del Castillo Bldg. Rizal St. Cor. Capitol Rd. Surigao City

LANAO DEL NORTE
J & P Bldg. Lluch Cmpd
Tubod Hi-way Iligan

CAGAYAN DE ORO
GF de Leon Bldg. Don Apolinar Velez-
Cayetano Pacana Cagayan de Oro City

SURIGAO DEL SUR
Tandag Surigao del Sur
E.G.J. Bldg. Espiritu St. Mangagoy Bislig City

DAVAO DEL NORTE
Teacher's Village Panabo Davao del Norte

NORTH COTABATO
Silverspoon Sudapawa Kidapawan
North Cotabato

COTABATO CITY
Goldfield Pawnshop, Don Rufino Alonzo St. Cotabato
Episcopal Bldg., Sinsuat Avenue Cotabato City
Quezon Avenue Midsayap, Cotabato City

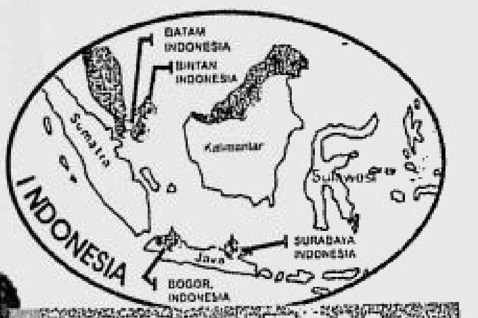
DAVAO CITY
SWSI - Davao
Bacaca Rd. Davao City
Door 2 Lacor Bldg. Elpidio
Quirino Ave., Davao City

TAGUM
Emerald St., Sison Subd.
Tagum City

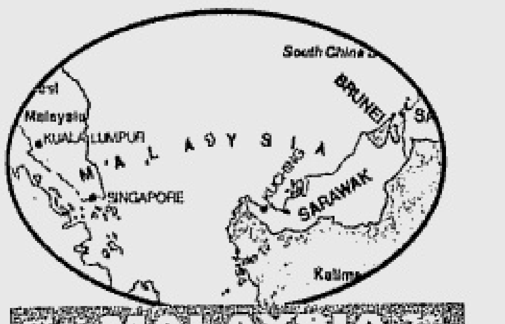
SOUTH COTABATO
Magsaysay St. General Santos City
Animas Bldg. San Pedro St. J. Catolico Ave.
Lagao Gen. Santos City
Pablo Bldg., Morales Ave., Koronadal City

Technology Perfected By:

SOLEREX
WATER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Since 1986



INDONESIA
PT SOLEREX RABANA INDONESIA
Gedung Rabana 5th Floor JL. Tomang Raya
no 48-A Jakarta,11430, Indonesia
Tel #: (62) 21-566 9808 to 10 Facsimile #: (62) 21-566 9820



MALAYSIA
CONTINENTAL SOLEREX
No. 29 Jalan SS 15/4c 47500 Subang Jaya Selangor Malaysia
Tel #: (60) 12-652-1615 / (60) 16-687-2480

Crystal Cl
Purified Drinking
Crystal Clear
Crystal Clear

Lorna Tolentino

Ms. Lorna Tolentino
Actress/Crystal Clear Franchisee

All drinking water should be ...

Crystal Clear®

Purified Drinking Water

E-mail: solerex@pacific.net.ph www.crystalclear.com.ph

Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year 2003

Gintong Sikap 2003 Awardee

Top ... Technology System Company 2003 - Asia Pacific Excellence Awardee

FOR FRANCHISE INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US AT:
Plant Office: Bldg. 10 #20 Evangelista St., Santolan, Pasig City
Tel.: 915-3879 to 80 / 915-0731 Tel/Fax: 915-3881
North Luzon Office: (045) 611-4122 • South Luzon Office: Tel. #: (043) 312-6924 • (043) 757-3822
Cebu Office: Tel.#: (032) 344-8889 Facsimile #: (032)420-6201
Davao Office: Tel.#: (082) 225-1485• (082) 305-5722 • (082) 300-3448

Headlines that touched Filipinos in US

From page A1

last, the Filipino veterans are getting their red, white and blue veterans cards, an honor too long delayed."

- California judge denies extradition of Roger Lawrence Strunk to the Philippines.

In November, a federal judge in Sacramento denied a request by the Philippine government to send Strunk, the husband of slain movie star Nida Blanca, back to Manila to stand trial for the murder of his wife.

The order by US Magistrate Gregory Hollows caused an uproar in the Philippines and among California's one-million strong Filipino community.

Hollows ruled that the Philippine government did not provide enough evidence to justify the return of the 63-year-old Strunk. The Philippine government is considering filing a new request for Strunk's extradition.

- Underdog Manny Pacquiao defeats best pound-for-pound featherweight in the world.

Displaying the aplomb of an experienced professional fighter, Manny Pacquiao vanquished the Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera in a linear featherweight championship match at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Paquiao became boxing's latest star after the November fight. He now commands at least $1 million in purse money.

Paquiao's feat took the breath out of Filipino-Americans who were, unusually for them, glued to their television sets on a Saturday night.

1st Filipino bishop

- Novo Ecijano becomes first Filipino bishop in Los Angeles.

Oscar Azarcon Solis, a 50-year-old Philippine-born prelate, was appointed by the Vatican in early December as the first Filipino-American Catholic bishop in America. Solis was born in San Jose, Nueva Ecija and once served as parish priest of Cabanatuan City.

Currently a pastor of the St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Thibodaux, Louisiana, Solis will be helping oversee the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California, after February.

As bishop of the Titular See of Urci, Solis will assist Cardinal Roger Mahony administer the second largest Catholic archdiocese in the US with five million members, including several thousand Filipinos.

The appointment of Solis was welcome news to Filipino-American Catholics in North America who are smarting from the scandal arising from a number of sexual molestation charges brought against a number of Philippine-born priests in California.

Pinoy pleads guilty

- Ex-Mayor Fajardo pleads guilty to extortion charges in federal court.

In January, Pete Fajardo, a Pangasinan native who served for four years as mayor of the Los Angeles suburb of Carson City, agreed to plead guilty to corruption charges in exchange for a more lenient sentence.

Fajardo was alleged to have negotiated more than $100,000 in bribes in exchange for votes while he was a member of the city council in Carson City.

Fajardo's plea bargain ended a promising public service career.

Heroes

- Filipino soldiers killed, another found safe in Iraq.

"They found my Joseph!" exclaimed US Army soldier Joseph Hudson 's mother when her son was found safe in late March after being held as a prisoner of war in Iraq.

Hudson was one of seven missing US soldiers who were found near Tikrit in late March, three weeks after their capture. Hudson, whose mother Aniceta was born in the Philippines, hails from Alamogordo, New Mexico.

While Hudson was fortunate to return safely, two other Filipino-Americans—Sergeants Joseph Menusa and Nino Livaudais—were killed in action in Iraq.

Menusa, a 33-year-old Marine gunny sergeant, emigrated from the Philippines with his mother when he was 10 years old. He died in a firefight with the elite Republican guards in the town of Nasiriya in southern Iraq, a day after compatriot Hudson was found.

Livaudiais, 23, who was born in Olongapo City, was killed by an Iraqi suicide bomber in April.

- Seattle executive gets elected to Seattle City Council.

Filipino-Americans in Seattle, Washington, helped elect one of their own to the city council of the Pacific Northwest's biggest city.

David Della, the son of an Ilocano immigrant from Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur, defeated incumbent Heidi Wills by some 5,000 votes in elections in November. He became the only Filipino-American to serve as a big city council member on the US mainland.

It is a feat that is sure to challenge California's more numerous Filipino-American community which has yet to send one of their own to the Golden State's corridors of power. California has about one million Filipino-Americans, while Washington state only has about 60,000.

- President Macapagal-Arroyo makes state visit to Washington

President Macapagal-Arroyo went on a state visit to Washington in May, becoming only the third chief of state to do so since George W. Bush assumed office.

For being a staunch Bush ally in the US fight against terrorism, the President literally brought home the bacon in the form of increased military assistance from Washington. Her friendship with the US President may well have influenced Bush to sign the Fil-Am veterans health benefits bill late in the year.

ONLY the third state visitor since US President George W. Bush assumed office, President Macapagal is treated as honored guest and valued friend at the White House in the global war against terrorism.

INTERNET PHOTO

FIRST Fil-Am bishop, Oscar Solis oversees 5 million Catholic faithful in the Los Angeles archdiocese, the second largest in the US.

PDI PHOTO

PRIDE of the Philippines, Manny Pacquiao in action as he delivers a right to Mexican Marco Barrera during the world featherweight bout in San Antonio Texas last November. Pacquiao defeated the champ by a TKO in the 11th round.

REUTERS

Manuel A. Roxas

Public School Graduate

Bar Topnotcher

Speaker of the House

Senate President

World War II Veteran

President of the Philippines

Birthday Celebrant

Ngayong ika-unang araw
ng bagong taon,
ipagdiwang natin
ang ika-112 kaarawan ni
Pangulong Manuel Roxas.

Isang alaala.
Manuel "Mar" Roxas II.
Apo.

Loren is FPJ's leading lady

From page A1

vironment protection and conservation.

Crucial factors

Sotto highlighted Legarda's "competence and integrity" as the crucial factors that finally convinced Poe.

"Actually, there are a lot of factors involved. One, choosing her is a good semblance for unification. Remember, one of the main thrusts of the FPJ presidency is to unify the country. And Loren came from the other side (Lakas-CMD)."

Legarda was one of 10 senators who voted to open the second Jose Velarde envelope during the impeachment trial of Poe's closest friend, President Joseph Estrada. The controversial vote led to Estrada's ouster.

Outstanding compared to Noli

The second factor, Sotto said, was Legarda's legislative record, which he called outstanding compared to that of Sen. Noli de Castro, who is running as President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate.

"She's very good ... competence-wise. She has proven her integrity even during her broadcast journalist years. She has a work ethic, which the country needs at this point," said Sotto.

He added: "She represents the youth and women. And as a majority leader in the Senate, she has demonstrated her intelligence in policy making."

Legarda earlier said that although popularity was an issue in elections, "It's not the be-all and end-all."

Sotto said the electorate should focus on "competence and integrity" in gauging the candidates "because of the tremendous crisis the country is facing now. The people should elect leaders who have vision, competence, integrity and popularity."

Powerhouse lineup

Sotto also disclosed that the coalition would formally announce today its senatorial lineup, but he refused to name names. "Let's keep the suspense going," he said.

LEGARDA says FPJ-Loren an "unbeatable tandem."

"But it's a powerhouse. This is the only ticket with a full slate. *May sobra pa.* (There's even a spillover.) So we will not prevent the others from filing their certificates of candidacy," he added.

An unimpeachable source called the senatorial lineup a "powerhouse," because it consisted of reelectionist Senators John Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta, former Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Francisco Tatad, Amina Rasul and Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, among others.

Osmeña, Oreta, Santiago, Enrile, Tatad and Sotto were six of the 11 senators who voted to keep the Velarde envelope closed.

Sotto said he had nominated candidates himself, but "FPJ is the one choosing his slate."

As of presstime, Poe was still trimming down the list of senate candidates from 19 to 12.

"But he himself wanted to make the announcement today, but was prevailed upon by coalition leaders to defer it until New Year's Day," said the source, who is a reelectionist.

Midnight meeting

Sotto also confirmed that Legarda and the movie actor known in show business circles as Da King had a meeting from midnight on Tuesday (Dec. 30) "until the wee hours of the morning (Wednesday)."

The three-hour private meeting was held somewhere in San Juan, where they had formalized the coalition ticket. The private talk was described as "very cordial."

During the meeting, Poe and Legarda talked about solidifying and strengthening the coalition to defeat the ruling party's ticket.

"We have to be strong as a team. We have to be formidable," said Poe, according to the source. "Legarda then talked about elevating the level of political discourse during campaign from character assassination to concrete programs and policies."

"But Poe was emphatic in saying that he does not want to criticize other candidates. He only wants to help the people," the source added.

Political intrigue

But this early, the slings and arrows of political intrigue appear to be affecting Poe.

"*Nahihirapan daw siya. Maraming intriga.* (He's finding it difficult. Too much intrigue)," Estrada told reporters.

He said he advised his friend to brace himself for even more intrigue, criticism and hardship as the campaign season heats up.

Poe has been attacked for his lack of educational attainment and experience in politics; his being an alleged dummy of Estrada's; and his reported lack of a solid political and economic platform of government.

"I told him that there will be more of such intrigues and criticisms when he becomes President," Estrada said, speaking from Camp Capinpin where he is detained while facing plunder and graft charges.

Estrada, who was ousted from power by a bloodless coup more than two years ago, said Poe—known to be very shy and very particular about his privacy—is also burdened by the discomforts of barnstorming the provinces and rural areas.

Still the winner

But Estrada still predicted that Poe would beat President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Sen. Raul Roco and Sen. Panfilo Lacson in a four-cornered fight for the presidency.

In a telephone interview, Estrada also downplayed the repercussions arising out of Lacson's act of filing his certificate of candidacy before the Commission on Elections, a move that effectively divided the bloc opposing the Macapagal Administration.

"*Wala yun* (that's nothing). That will not affect the chances of Ronnie (Poe) in winning the elections," Estrada said.

He said Poe's win would not be different from his own victory over five major candidates—including Roco and Speaker Jose de Venecia—in the 1998 elections.

He noted that President Macapagal has the same problem as Poe. Ms Macapagal has Roco to share the pro-administration votes with.

"In that scenario, FPJ is a sure winner," Estrada said. "He can easily take on a four-cornered fight, the way I handled a six-cornered fight."

But Estrada said he was still hoping that Poe and Lacson could settle their differences and work out a way to ensure that there is only one candidate for President from the opposition. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Christine Avendaño***

Bayani declines seat in Lakas Senate slate; Ping camp wants him

By Margaux Ortiz and Christine O. Avendaño

NO, this particular chair doesn't aspire to a seat in the Senate.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said he had turned down President Macapagal Arroyo's offer to join the ruling party's senatorial slate.

Fernando said the President, who attended Marikina's fireworks display on Tuesday night, discussed the slot in the 12-person ticket that the Lakas-CMD party had reserved for him.

"I told her I would not make a good senator because I lack experience in legislation," Fernando, who prefers to be called Chairman, said in a phone interview.

"I think she respects my decision as I respect hers," Fernando added. Fernando had offered himself as the President's running mate, but Ms Macapagal chose Sen. Noli de Castro.

As for the offer of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson for him to run as his vice presidential candidate, the MMDA chief said he was "thankful for the compliment."

"I've been seriously thinking about my plans since my party Lakas has made its decision," Fernando said.

"I want my final decision on Jan. 5 to be suspenseful, as my earlier plans have always been predictable and transparent," he added in jest.

Continuing efforts

Lacson's camp remains interested in getting Fernando to run as the senator's running mate.

"Efforts to get Ping and Fernando (together) are still going on," Lito Banayo, Lacson's political adviser, said in a phone interview yesterday.

Banayo reiterated that Lacson's camp hoped to have his running mate on board before the Jan. 5 deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for the May 10 polls.

FERNANDO: No. 2 or nothing?

Banayo said Monday that Lacson wanted Fernando to be his running mate because both "represent the same perspective and principle, and have an impressive track record in service."

He described talks with Fernando as being now in the advanced stage.

Sources have said that Lacson and Fernando met during the Christmas holidays, but no final decision was reached in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino faction of party president and chair Sen. Edgardo Angara issued a statement denying that Makabangkit Lanto, LDP provincial chair for Lanao del Norte and an ex-ambassador to Egypt, had agreed to be part of Lacson's senatorial lineup.

Quoting a message Lanto had relayed to the party, the statement said that if the latter were to run, he would do so only under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), the opposition coalition Angara put together.

Comeback kid: Orly in Lakas ticket

From page A1

Mercado is one of 11 Senate candidates of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats. The party is reserving the 12th slot for a Muslim.

The other candidates include reelectionist Senators Robert Barbers and Robert Jaworski and Secretaries Richard Gordon (tourism), Roberto Pagdanganan (agrarian reform), and recently resigned Manuel "Mar" Roxas II (trade and industry).

Two movie action stars—Pampanga Gov. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board are also included in the ticket, as are former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and political neophyte Pia Cayetano, daughter of the late Sen. Renato Cayetano.

In a phone interview, Mercado explained why he was joining the administration ticket. "President Macapagal will ensure continuity and we need such continuity."

Like Mercado, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez is also making a comeback bid.

12th slot

Another ex-senator, Ernesto Herrera, is reportedly jockeying for the 12th slot but an administration source noted: "Boy Herrera is not doing well in the surveys."

The Lakas senatorial candidates will file their certificates of candidacies with the Commission on Elections on Monday, Jan. 5.

Mercado, who served two terms as senator before becoming Estrada's defense chief in 1998, tried to make a comeback to the Senate in the 2001 elections.

MERCADO: Comeback kid

Mercado, who is currently teaching in the graduate schools of the University of the Philippines, ran as an independent candidate but was later "adopted" by the Estrada group.

He lost, however, and it is widely believed he was a victim of "junking" by some members of the Estrada camp. Unlike other losing candidates, Mercado immediately conceded his defeat.

He said in jest: "*Hindi pa naman siguro tayo laos* (I think I'm not yet a has-been)."

Ph. D. in pol sci

Mercado, who holds a doctorate in political science, noted that basic legislation like the long-pending land use measure needed attention by the incoming Congress.

"These are measures that I've seen when I was still a senator and we should give them a final push," Mercado said.

Noli authored . . .

From page A1

cism that the broadcaster had failed to accomplish anything substantial in his first two and a half years in the Senate. But they only served to draw attention to De Castro's meager production.

"He has worked on bills for overseas Filipino workers and their livelihood upon their return from abroad and for senior citizens' welfare," said Isko Catibayan, spokesperson for the Kabayan for Vice President Movement, in a telephone interview.

Like Erap

"Contrary to what his critics are saying, Senator De Castro continued his public service in the Senate from his stint in the media," Catibayan said.

De Castro's modest total compares favorably with that of deposed President Joseph Estrada, who authored only one bill in his six years in the Senate. It compares very favorably with those of Senators Robert Jaworski and Ramon Revilla, who are not identified in the records as being the principal author of any bill.

Uneducated?

Since its organization as the Kabayan for President Movement in November, the coalition of small-scale businessmen, workers, youth and women's groups has had to work double time to counter bad press regarding De Castro's alleged lack of intelligence.

"Senator de Castro has a degree in commerce, major in banking and finance. How can he be dismissed as uneducated?" Catibayan said.

After gathering more than two million signatures for de Castro's presidential bid, the movement still welcomed the senator's decision to run for vice president on the administration ticket.

"We will campaign for Senator De Castro around the country. We support his decision," Catibayan said.

It was not clear, however, if the KPVM would support President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy.

"The sectors under our group are still talking about this. Nothing has been decided yet," Catibayan said.

Roco asked: Who he? Why him?

From page A1

Tarlac. He's an uncle of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

Sign of despair

"A sign of despair and impending defeat," a member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign team belittled the choice of former congressman Aquino as running mate of Roco.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said that the drafting of Aquino is "indicative of Roco's lack of a national political machinery and a solid political base."

"With due respects to Congressman Aquino, he is not even a national figure to begin with and certainly he cannot contribute votes for Roco," Pichay said in a phone interview.

3-term congressman

Aquino was a three-term congressman from the third district of Tarlac from 1987 to 1988. As congressman, he was the principal author of the law that created the Department of Energy.

He was Tarlac's vice governor in 1998. In 2001, he ran for governor but lost.

Pichay noted that a Roco-Aquino team-up cannot hold a candle against the ticket of the reelectionist President Macapagal and her popular vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro.

"This development in the Roco camp reinforces what we have been saying that GMA is really the candidate to beat in next year's elections," Pichay said.

Pichay pointed out that Roco could have picked a more prominent figure like former defense secretary Renato de Villa, who is running as senator, or Lito Osmeña of Cebu.

Why not Moreno?

De Villa's Reporma party and Osmena's Promdi had earlier coalesced with Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko to form the Alyansa ng Pagasa (Alliance of Hope).

"Or Roco could have gotten Congressman Moreno," said Pichay, referring to Rep. Oscar Moreno (Misamis Oriental), who cut a striking and significant figure as prosecutor in the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Pichay pointed out that other aspirants, particularly actor Fernando Poe Jr., are keen on getting a bankable running mate who could "provide synergy in the team-up."

"If a candidate like Roco cannot even get a strong running mate, then it shows that the candidate himself is not perceived as a winnable one," Pichay said.

'Most surprised'

Aquino had himself admitted that he was the "most surprised" when Roco announced that he had selected him as his vice presidential bet on Tuesday. He said he thought it was a joke.

Aquino had been helping Roco set up his political machinery but had assiduously stayed behind the scenes.

But Roco said that Aquino was the only "genuinely qualified vice presidential candidate based on record, experience and genetic construction."

During the Cory Aquino administration, he was deputy executive secretary and minister of human settlements. Aquino also chaired various government agencies including the Technology Livelihood and Resource Center and the National Electrification Administration.

Roco 's spokesperson

Designated as Roco's political spokesperson, Aquino said that his candidate is more prepared to tackle his rivals. Roco's team has been laying down the groundwork for his political machinery since the start of the year, he added.

"Come campaign time, people will be surprised," said Aquino.

Since January, he said, they have been tapping local politicians, former colleagues in Congress for support.

Record of service

Aquino was a member of the Eighth (1987-1992), Ninth (1992-1995) and Tenth (1995-1998) Congress.

After that he was vice governor of Tarlac from 1998-2001. He did not seek reelection.

Roco represented the 2nd district of Camarines Sur during the Eighth Congress and went on to be elected senator in 1992.

Aquino, who came to know Roco in 1987, said Roco did not have the benefit of a political machinery when he ran for president in 1998.

While Roco had been topping Ms Macapagal in surveys for choices of presidential candidates, his lack of a credible political machinery had placed his chances of winning in doubt.

As Pichay said: "It's the political machinery that ensures that votes are cast and protected."

Missing component

"We now have a political component. This could be the missing component in his last campaign," he said.

According to Aquino, Roco relied on an "army of volunteers, students and non-politicians" back in 1998. He also campaigned mostly in the urban centers.

Despite that Roco was able to finish a strong third in a field of seven, nearly eclipsing the runner-up and administration candidate, House Speaker Jose De Venecia.

Senatorial slate

In 1998, Roco did not have senatorial candidates.

This time, he has at least eight senatorial bets led by incumbent Sen. Rodolfo Biazon. But half of them are running for office for the first time.

Aquino, who was chosen at the last minute to be Roco's running mate, said he mainly hoped to contribute to Roco's campaign.

They have not yet come up with a campaign slogan. But Aquino said their message is to "present a clear alternative" to the electorate.

Lakas machinery

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said that survey ratings of the President will increase by leaps once the campaign season starts.

"That's when the Lakas machinery starts to kick in," said Nograles, referring to the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Aquino finds it awkward that the campaign would start on Feb. 10, more than a month after the candidates have formally filed their certificates of candidacy.

"This campaign is the first of its kind. There are no rules," he added.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iran quake deaths may reach 50,000

BAM, Iran—The death toll in Iran's earthquake could jump to 50,000, officials said on Tuesday, as relief workers pleaded for more aid for survivors of one of the deadliest natural disasters of modern times.

"If we consider that, on average, five people lived in each house we can say the death toll will reach 50,000," a senior Interior Ministry official said, sharply raising the projected tally from the nearly 30,000 already buried.

Residents in Bam, 1,000 km southeast of Tehran, said some children who survived Friday's quake had died in the bitterly cold nights.

With 90 percent of Bam's buildings damaged, according to UN estimates, tens of thousands are now sleeping in the open.

"Two children from my family, 12 and 13 years old, survived the earthquake, but they died from exposure while out on the street some time on Friday night," one middle-aged woman said.

Another senior official confirmed the forecast of 50,000 deaths, though President Mohammad Khatami called it premature.

"We should wait until the rescue work and all the activities in Bam are finished," Khatami told reporters in nearby Kerman, saying the present toll was "definitely not 50,000."

Such a figure could make the earthquake the most lethal since one at Tangshan in China that killed at least five times that many in 1976.

Friday's tremor, which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale, struck just before dawn, killing entire families as they slept.

"Instead of Bam we now have ruins and deep sorrow," Khatami said, adding he had instructed the Housing Ministry to produce a report in 10 days on Bam's seismological faults and plans for rebuilding the ancient Silk Road city.

State television said the government had earmarked about $410 million for reconstruction.

Aid agencies say around 100,000 people are homeless and are appealing for warm clothing and blankets.

The first US military aircraft to land in Iran in more than 20 years arrived over the weekend carrying disaster response experts and tons of emergency supplies.

In a development that Washington cautiously welcomed, Iran agreed this month to surprise UN inspections of its nuclear facilities after signing on to a European-brokered deal. *Reuters*

EU letter bombs traced to Italian anarchists

BRUSSELS—European police forces hunted on Tuesday for Italian anarchists suspected of waging a letter bomb campaign against top EU targets, as Germany sealed off a military hospital over a bomb threat by Islamic militants.

The latest letter bomb was sent on Tuesday to Eurojust, a European Union body based in The Hague that is made up of prosecutors and judges who help member states investigate and prosecute serious cross-border crime cases. It did not explode.

An Italian group calling itself the Informal Anarchist Federation had threatened a campaign against the "new European order" just days before the first device targeted EU President Romano Prodi on Saturday.

No one has been injured by the four devices in four days that have also been sent to European Central Bank head Jean-Claude Trichet and Juergen Storbeck, head of the EU's police agency Europol.

An Italian judicial source said all the letter bombs had been posted from the country's northern city of Bologna.

Before the letter bombs, the Informal Anarchist Federation sent a statement to Italy's La Repubblica newspaper claiming responsibility for planting small devices that exploded near Prodi's home on Dec. 22.

Authorities said they were taking the group's threat seriously.

"We are looking at members of an Italian group that are close to the anarchist spectrum," said a spokesperson for the German federal prosecutor's office in Frankfurt.

The letter bomb to Prodi exploded in his hands, but he was unhurt. The letters to Trichet and Storbeck were intercepted.

The EU's headquarters in Brussels said it had tightened some security measures.

The letter bomb campaign occurred at a time of security jitters around the world in the wake of a warning by the United States of an increased threat of terror attacks over the Christmas and New Year festive season. *Reuters*

COWBOY Bill Collins leads over 300 head of cattle down a southern Alberta road northwest of Calgary, as steam rises from the cattle in the cold morning air, Dec. 30. Canada is searching for herdmates and offspring of an Alberta cow fingered as the first animal infected with mad cow disease found in the United States. REUTERS

US moves to allay fears over mad cow

WASHINGTON—The US government said on Tuesday it was moving immediately to tighten oversight of the $27-billion cattle industry and boost consumer confidence after the first case of mad cow disease in the United States.

The moves—some now endorsed by a once-reluctant industry that is still reeling from the sudden loss of a $3-billion-a-year beef export market—came after a fourth straight day of sharply lower cattle prices in US markets.

The US Department of Agriculture is investigating the cause of the first US case of mad cow disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The USDA announced on Dec. 23 that the disease was found in a Holstein dairy cow in Washington state.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman told a press conference that the US government is immediately banning downer cattle—animals unable to walk on their own at the slaughter plant—from being used as food for humans.

"The actions we are taking today are steps to enact additional safeguards to protect the public health," she said.

As a precaution, Veneman said, processors would be barred from using the brains, eyes and small intestine of older cattle in human food. Another new regulation seeks to keep spinal tissue out of meat products via "meat recovery systems" that scrape tiny bits of meat off a carcass.

The USDA will work to create an identification system for tracing animals and create an international panel of scientists to review the department's response to the mad cow case.

"This is a rational response to a situation that has now reached a new plane," said Bob Price, president of North America Risk Management Services, a livestock consultancy in Chicago.

Analyst Bob Anderson at Commodity Services Inc., a Des Moines, Iowa, brokerage, said "withholding meat from the food chain from any suspicious cattle is a step forward."

"The identification to trace the cattle, I'm all in favor of that. I don't see anything onerous in what USDA has proposed and I think it would be in the cattlemen's best interest to fully support it," he said.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, in a policy shift after the Dec. 23 announcement, backed a "test and hold" stance for suspicious cattle like "downer" animals.

Out of 35 million cattle slaughtered each year in the United States, an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 are downer cattle.

Veneman said the USDA moves will not "cost the USDA or for that matter the industry significant amounts of money."

The USDA is trying to eliminate possible contamination of meat supplies by neural tissues thought most suspect in carrying the misshapen proteins that characterize bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease.

BSE is a fatal ailment that destroys the brains of infected cattle. Humans contract a form of the disease known as variant' Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease by eating tissue from the brains, spinal cords or central nervous systems of infected animals. *Reuters*

US willing to open dialogue with Iran

CRAWFORD, Texas—The United States said on Tuesday it was willing to consider opening a dialogue with Iran, marking a possible shift in policy toward a country President George W. Bush has branded part of an "axis of evil."

A senior US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the possibility of engaging Iran is something Bush has "on his plate" to consider, though he emphasized the administration would like to see Tehran first make some gesture toward the United States.

Washington severed formal ties with Iran in 1979 following the seizure of the US Embassy in Tehran.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, in an interview with The Washington Post, cited "encouraging" signs from Tehran recently that could pave the way for talks.

A potential turning point seemed to have come with an offer of humanitarian assistance to Iran after Friday's earthquake in the city of Bam. Tehran welcomed the assistance as it grappled with recovery from a quake that may have killed 50,000 people.

"The earthquake kind of brings it to a head," the official said, though he stressed that discussion on the stance toward Iran had already been taking place.

The earthquake aid was not motivated by politics, the official said. But it triggered discussion. "It got people thinking, 'You care about the Iranian people. Why don't you just start talking to their government?'"

However, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said that while "there is no enmity between the people of Iran and the American nation," the earthquake aid would not alter the relations.

"I don't think this incident will change our relations with the United States," Khatami told a news conference.

Still, Tehran's acceptance of the US aid was in contrast to its refusal to admit relief workers after a 1990 quake that also killed tens of thousands of people.

"There are things happening and therefore we should keep open the possibility of dialogue at an appropriate point in the future," Powell told The Washington Post. *Reuters*

CONGESTRIL
Forte Cap./Syrup
Dextromethorphan HBr
Chlorphenamine Maleate
Phenylpropanolamine HCl
Paracetamol

For effective control of coughs associated with colds, allergy, influenza, acute & chronic bronchitis, laryngitis, pharyngitis & other respiratory tract infections. For the relief of nasal congestion, runny nose, post nasal drip, itchy & watery eyes, acute & chronic sinusitis, allergic conditions & vasomotor rhinitis. Bronchial irritation caused by excessive smoking & inhalation of irritating substances. For the safe and rapid relief of pain and fever.

"MABISANG GAMOT PARA SA TRANGKASO"
E-mail: roddenserapharma@yahoo.com
Tel. No.: 721-6058/724-9627
Available at Mercury Drug Stores Nationwide

REMINDER

Tomorrow, January 2, 2004 is FIRST FRIDAY.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus FOUNDATION is giving away to the Devotees FREE Novenas in English and all dialects; also Statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and of Saint Anthony for Chapels, Schools, Offices, Hospitals, & other public places only.

Please get them at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. PLEASE CALL Ms. JASMINE for appointment. 843-8830

ACT SINCE 1981
- Banawe, Q.C.
- Shopwise, Libis, Q.C.
- Nepomall, Angeles City

Appliances Repair • OPEN EVERYDAY!

AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER
TOSHIBA PHILIPS
Panasonic AKIRA
GRUNDIG TCL SUN INC.
G•Hanz PROMAC
HYUNDAI CHANGHONG
etc.

TV's
Home Service for Big Screen

CALL: (02) 363.16.50
- Demo at ACT Shops
- Distributor /Installer
- Wireless Extension

Major Credit Cards Accepted!

WORLDBRIEFS

US to ban ephedra diet supplement

WASHINGTON—US health officials said on Tuesday they will ban the weight-loss herb ephedra because it poses unreasonable risks such as heart attacks and strokes. It is the first time the government has moved to outlaw a dietary supplement and will set a legal precedent for action against other risky products, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said. The ban will take effect 60 days after publication of the new rule, which is expected in the coming weeks. Thompson said he anticipated a legal challenge and officials were prepared to defend the ban in court. Makers insist ephedra, also known as ma huang, is safe when taken as directed. *Reuters*

Ashcroft steps down from CIA leak probe

WASHINGTON—US Attorney General John Ashcroft on Tuesday stepped aside from the politically charged investigation into the leak of an undercover CIA officer's name in the build-up to Iraq war and the Justice Department named a special prosecutor to lead the probe. Deputy Attorney General James Comey said Ashcroft had decided "in an abundance of caution" to step aside from the investigation. Comey named the US attorney in Chicago, Patrick Fitzgerald, to lead the investigation. The Justice Department is conducting a criminal investigation into who disclosed the identity of a CIA officer whose husband had challenged President George W. Bush's claims about Iraq's weapons threat. Disclosing the identity of a clandestine intelligence officer is a federal crime as is leaking classified information to the media. *Reuters*

IATA wary of guns onboard planes

GENEVA—The International Air Transport Association was wary Tuesday about a US demand for armed guards on foreign planes to meet terrorist threats, while many pilot groups attacked the move as too dangerous. On Monday, US Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge issued an emergency directive that foreign carriers put armed police on flights where US officials deemed there was a terrorist risk. The announcement came eight days after US officials heightened a nationwide attack alert, citing intelligence that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network wanted to stage an even bigger strike than the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. *AFP*

10 YEARS CELEBRATING THE STARS
STAR CRUISES
10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
RAFFLE PROMO
"Stars that Glitter on Land or at Sea"

All passengers who will cruise on any of Star Cruises' vessels between 26th October 2003 until 29th February 2004 have a chance to win spectacular prizes.

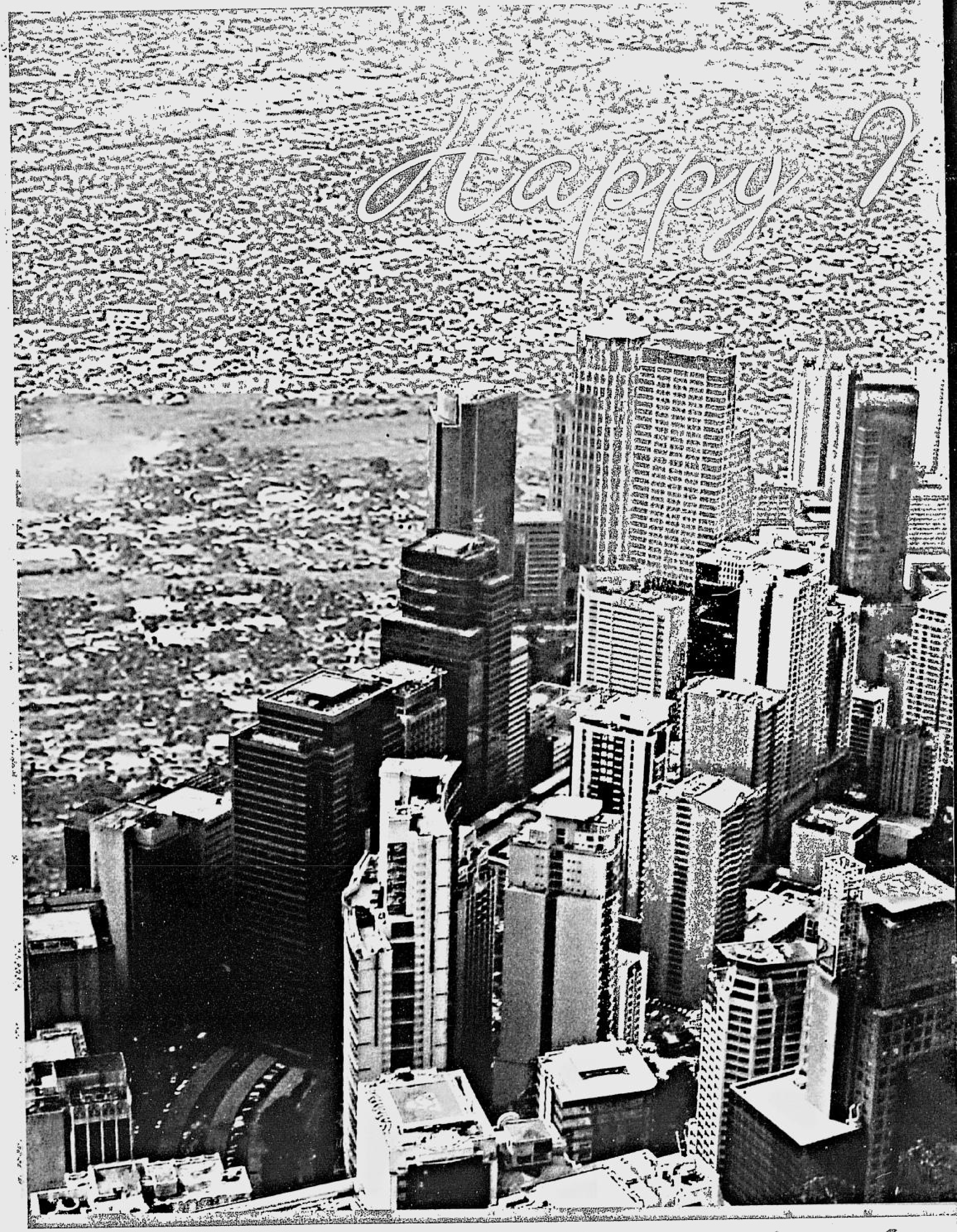
PRIZES AT STAKE:
1ST PRIZE - One Pair Oval Shaped Diamond Earring plus Pendant (1) Winner
2ND PRIZE - One Carat Diamond Ring (2) Winners
3RD PRIZE - Tennis Bracelet (2) Winners

Participating Outlets:
GMA Preferred Sales Agents • GSA Cruises Rm. 406 Parc House 227 EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City • Horizon Travel & Tours 1128 Dolmar Bldg., United Nations Ave., Paco, Manila • Infinite Travel 525 Casa Blanca R. Salas St. Ermita, Manila • Morning Star Travel 1600 Pedro Gil cor. J. Bocobo St. Malate, Manila • Oldemare Tours Suite 31 2nd flr. Midland Plaza Hotel M. Adriatico St., Ermita Manila [illegible] PROVINCIAL Preferred Sales Agents [illegible]
For inquiries, contact your favorite travel agent or Star Cruises Manila office at U-3B Pacific Place Bldg., 539 Arquiza St., Ermita, Manila, Philippines Tel # (632) 521 5680 - 526 8401 Fax# (632) 521 5637

STAR CRUISES
The Leading Cruise Line in Asia Pacific

Deadline for submission of entries: February 29, 2004 at 6 pm
Draw date: March 10, 2004 at 3.00pm

PROMO PERIOD:
OCT. 26, 2003 to FEB. 29, 2004
FOR DTI-NCR PERMIT # 4522 SERIES OF 2003



Welcome 2004 with the promise of a from SMART -- the country'

It's amazing how many people were touched by life-enhancing SMART innovations in 2003. But no matter ho
services and innovations to enhance your lifestyle, bringing more power straight into your hands and into the li
you the best possible service in 2003 will continue to provide you with more pioneering wireless innovations i

The most wanted pre-paid cellular service that gives you unmatched call quality and widest nationwide coverage. Plus, powered by the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2, it gives you the broadest range of value-added services like STARTXT, Cinema Club and Music Link directly from your favorite stars, movies, music and so much more.

The post-paid cellular service that offers you a wide selection of monthly plans with free calls and free text. Get the choicest handsets like the much-praised SMART Amazing Phone and enjoy a myriad of value-added services made just for people who value true premium service.

The revolutionary service offering exclusive multimedia content that fits your young and active lifestyle. Have the power to access an extensive range of value-added services without having to pay extra, enjoy Person-to-Person MMS messaging and experience cooler MMS content like the Addict Mobile StereoTypes.

The truly mass-based GSM service in the country, Talk 'N Text offers high GSM service quality at a very affordable price and gives you access to special services like Talk 'N Text Chismis and PBA Central. It even connects more and more Filipinos at the barangay level through its Tawag and Text Partner program.

The world's first service
allows you to pass on P10.
to your SMART Buddy a
friends wherever they
SMART innovation.

*The SMART Network serves SMART Buddy, SMART Gold, Addict Mobile, Talk 'N Text and SMART ACeS subscribers.

ɔrand new day in wireless innovations
s largest wireless network*.

v much we've done in the past year, you can be sure to expect more in 2004. That's more SMART ideas, more
ves of millions of subscribers on the SMART Network. Rest assured, that the very same brands that have brought
2004 and in the years to come.

ɔm SMART that
0 pre-paid load
Talk 'N Text
y be. Another

Load Load

SMART's pioneering service that allows you to load up anytime, anywhere for as low as P30.00. Buddy Load and Talk 'N Text Load have even brought business to hundreds of thousands of enterprising individuals and generated additional income for small business owners.

SMART Money

The only reloadable cash card that allows you to reload your SMART Buddy account, make purchases in MasterCard-affiliated establishments in hundreds of shops and restaurants nationwide. It also allows you to send and receive money to and from your friends and loved ones. You can even earn points that you can redeem for airtime and privileges from SMART Mobile Coupon.

SMART International Services

SMART allows you to go global with its international services. With over 250 roaming partners in over 100 destinations worldwide, feel free to travel anywhere and still enjoy voice calls, SMS, GPRS and MMS messaging depending on your chosen service. Call your friends and relatives abroad with our lowest IDD rate of only 40¢ a minute. Send international text to most countries even to non-GSM phones in the U.S., Canada and Japan.

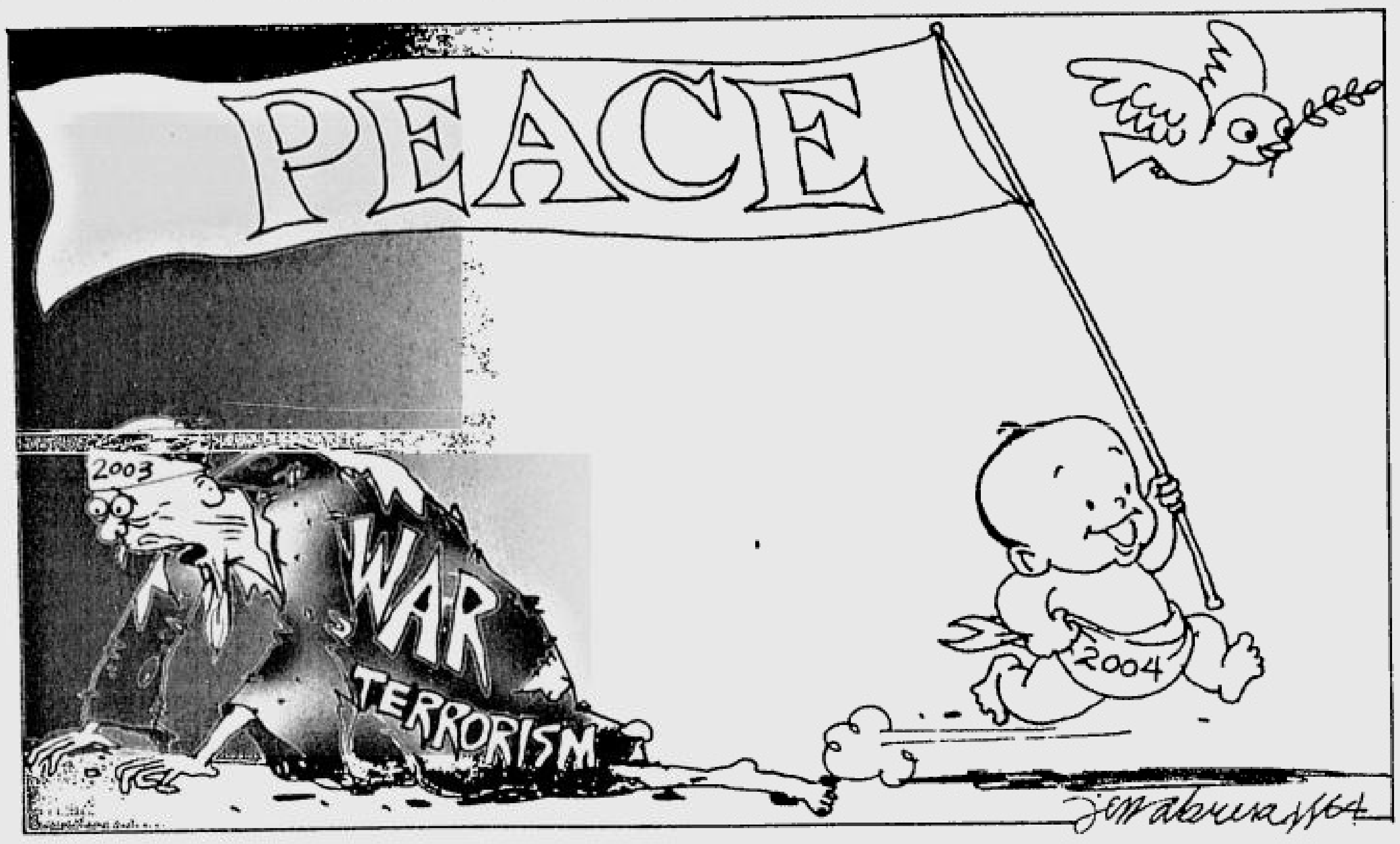
SMART
Simply Amazing!

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 24
OPINION
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Desk Editor **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



The same but different

EDITORIAL

AGAIN to begin from the beginning—a yearly ceremony that cannot but be awash in hope. To start on a clean slate, or as close to it as can be possible; to rise to the occasion equipped with a perspective enriched by lessons learned from the past. To look forward with anticipation, eager for what can become, but also to look back with longing and regret. To remember the chances flubbed and the opportunities missed, to intentionally sift from memory and *see:* the day you did not seize, the words you did not say, the one that got away.

(Like pictures. Francine Prose, writing about the photographs of Diane Arbus, said a picture becoming an icon may not exactly be the most propitious thing to happen to a work of art: "Because when we call something 'iconic,' partly what we mean is that it has become possible to see it without looking. And once we can summon an image from memory, reconstruct it in our minds, interpret it in ways that become convenient substitutions for the image itself, we may lose our motivation to revisit the actual object as often, and to study it as closely, as we should. We stop returning to it for the periodic soundings that it can provide on the subject of how we, and the world around us, have changed with age and maturity, and in the course of time.")

Today is momentous. A mere symbol, of course, a number, you could say, one among many calculated in the human effort to put order in the seeming welter of the days. (You are moved to think of Stonehenge and the mystery of the ancient stones, and to imagine the quite inconceivable task of measuring light shafting from the sullen sky to impale a rock, in order to plot time beyond sunrise and sunset.) But a potent reminder, nevertheless, that it's later than you think.

The first day of the year promises renewal. The signs are hardly promising (think of—or, better still, *look at*—the army of grimy children multiplying in the streets as though by a laser wand, terrifying because hungry) but the start of every new year triggers in human beings an expectation of change. A bit naïve (also the height of conceit, presupposing as it does that the universe deigns to concern itself with human affairs), but that's the nature of the beast.

And the nature of expectation includes a determination to begin afresh where the going went bad, to re-chart a course where it went awry, even to thoughtfully step back where one imagined a line was drawn, to recoup, recharge, rethink. And thence (perhaps in the manner of the guerrilla) to take bold steps forward mindful of the winning element of surprise.

But these are adages worn down by time and circumstance, modern commandments reformulated by the gurus of self-help and corporate conformity, chicken-soup tips that, often and sadly, merely serve to aid and abet the indulgent!

In this season of beginnings, the usual talking heads are mouthing pious platitudes preparatory to the election campaign, by all indications a tired rehash of the old song-and-dance (but, cannily, spiced with sex—think GMA and "Ocho-Ocho"—in clever keeping with the trend where even children writhe, lunge and thrust). In advance of the sad choreography, they are wheeling and dealing in the tested tradition of horse-trading, all the while flashing smiles, kissing infants, pressing flesh and spending money as though pouring water on sand.

In the here and now, this promises to be how the cookie will crumble—the same stale scenario if there ever was one. But different. A picture emerges, moving in slo-mo: the army of hungry children dropping the makeshift *mariachi* and slowly slouching toward the gates.

Cultural exception

FOREIGN COMMENT

ONCE again, with the proposed "head scarf law," France is setting itself apart. The large majority of foreign observers are more stunned than critical.

As a similar-sized majority of French people supports the law, we find ourselves without a doubt faced with an exemplary case of cultural exception.

Secularism is in effect part of a group of grand abstract notions, as are the three essential qualities of The French Republic.

As laudable as it is, secularism does not constitute an end in itself but, inevitably a means toward republican goals that are liberty (to think and believe in what you want and be able to express yourself publicly), equality (that everyone in the eyes of the state is regarded with the utmost neutrality) and fraternity (the black sheep of the family).

In concrete terms, the priority is (or should become) the integration of adolescents from families influenced by their Islamic culture and their social marginalization.

Liberation (Paris)

Who will the Lopezes support for VP?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HAPPY New Year to everybody. I hope all your fingers are still intact. If not, I'm sure your top New Year's resolution is never to go near a firecracker again. If you have been bad the past year, I hope your resolution is to turn over a new leaf and be good for a change. If you have been good, I hope you continue being good. For goodness is its own reward, the satisfaction of knowing you did the right thing.

* * *

The New Year will bring an interesting political contest: the vice presidential race—Noli de Castro, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate, versus Loren Legarda, Fernando Poe Jr.'s most likely running mate. Both are stars of the ABS-CBN network; whoever wins, the ultimate winner will be ABS-CBN, the Lopezes, Meralco, Maynilad Water, Benpress, etc. The losers could be the electric and water consumers in Metro Manila and suburbs.

But who is going to win? Who will the Lopezes support? De Castro consistently tops the poll surveys, but that can change, now that he is running with GMA and against Legarda. De Castro is weighed down by a heavy baggage, GMA; Legarda has an asset, FPJ.

GMA obviously courted De Castro to be her running mate in the hope that his popularity will win votes for her. But as has been repeatedly pointed out by analysts and proven in previous elections, a popular vice presidential candidate cannot always pull up an unpopular presidential candidate. In the 1992 elections, Erap won as vice president but his presidential running mate, Danding Cojuangco, lost.

Again, in 1998, GMA herself won as vice president but her running mate, Speaker Jose de Venecia, lost. So even if De Castro wins, it does not mean he can make GMA win, too.

On the other hand, Legarda is no pushover. She is the runner-up in the surveys. Like De Castro, she topped the senatorial elections. She should get more of the women votes. She is very good-looking. And she is definitely more articulate than De Castro who, observers say, seems to be lost without a script. Indeed, in the three years that he has been senator, he has not delivered a single speech nor participated actively in any important debate. What's more, Legarda is an environmentalist and therefore should be popular to environmental NGOs and to those who care for the environment.

Best of all, Legarda has a very popular running mate. FPJ will pull in votes for her as surely as GMA will take away votes from De Castro.

But who of its two stars will the Lopezes support? Observers believe it would be De Castro as he is the more obedient. But in the same breath, they say that it won't matter much because the Lopezes are in a financial crisis and have little cash to spare, though ABS-CBN can help very much with free commercials and news coverage.

But there is a big irony in the forthcoming confrontation between the two ABS-CBN colleagues. Legarda agreed to run for vice president only if De Castro ran for the same post. "For the sake of our country," she said in an interview on Christmas Eve, before De Castro announced his acceptance of GMA's offer for him to be her running mate.

What would happen to our country if FPJ becomes president (and chances are very high that he would be) and De Castro becomes the vice president (and chances are that he would win hands down if somebody else other than Legarda runs against him)?

During the interview, Legarda said she is torn between running for the vice presidency and for another term in the Senate where she expects to again finish at or near the top. At the very least, she is sure to be among the 12 winners. If De Castro doesn't run, she would prefer to run for the Senate. But if he runs for the vice presidency, Legarda has no choice but to contest the position.

So we can expect Legarda, who has always been a go-getter, to fight tooth and nail. So De Castro, still a neophyte in politics (this will be only his second political contest), will face the fight of his life.

But De Castro has nothing to lose even if he loses the vice presidential elections. He still has three years left of his term in the Senate and he can always go back to it if he loses. And rumors also say that even before the first ballot is cast, he has already won. Stories are circulating that he was offered as much as P750 million to be GMA's running mate. But those are only rumors. I don't think they are true.

* * *

There is something missing in the stories and police reports on the death of actor Miko Sotto, who fell from the 9th floor balcony of his condominium.

"He most likely slipped and fell," said Mandaluyong City police chief Ericson Velasquez. Most likely? Probably? Can't he be more precise? There are at least two, possibly three, eyewitnesses to the incident. Why weren't they questioned by the police and the reporters?

Sotto was reportedly with his cousin Oyo Boy Sotto, son of comedian Vic Sotto by actress Dina Bonnevie, and GMA production member Marko Medina when he fell. Another cousin, who is not from show biz, was reportedly also with them. So how come the police and the reporters did not question these three? They should be able to tell exactly what happened.

* * *

Here are the first two jokes of 2004:

We really have great minds contesting the presidency:

GMA: economic mind
Roco: academic mind
Davide: legal mind
Lacson: police mind
De Castro: media mind
FPJ: never mind.

* * *

Answer this question truthfully:

If either FPJ or Ping Lacson were elected president, which country would you immigrate to?

Staying put

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OVER THE LAST couple of weeks, I've heard some startling stories about people leaving the country. What has made it startling is that the people who were doing so were not the kind you normally expect to.

A couple in fact had just finished building a fairly comfortable house in the suburbs. Both ran small businesses of their own, and were able to save money for their dream house. But barely had they warmed it when their application for a visa to Canada passed. They didn't hesitate at all. I don't know if they put their place up for sale, or if they kept it just in case they had to come back. But they packed up their bags and left.

A doctor told me as well recently many of his colleagues are contemplating relocating abroad. Some feel their avenues for advancement have been blocked here. Though they aren't doing badly, they figure they can always do better abroad. Or earn better, since they know they won't be doing the same thing abroad: Many Filipino doctors end up as caregivers, especially in the United States. Others want a better life for their kids, one that isn't prey to kidnapping and all sorts of mayhem, and figure the United States and Canada (the places of choice) offer that. Still others are desperate: Contrary to rumor, not all doctors are rich, some eke out a living like the rest of us.

I don't know that the number of people wanting to leave the country has risen since last year, when 19 percent of the population indicated their desire to do so, but these stories give cause for concern. I can't say I entirely blame those 19 percent or more. This country can frustrate you. The complaint that things do not seem to change except for the worse is more than justifiable, it is there for everyone to see. I've been writing columns for a decade and a half and have gotten a ringside view of events, and half the time I've had a sensation not unlike that of John the Baptist, which is crying in the wilderness. I can only thank God no one has yet asked for my head, like Salome.

The very real possibility that we may see another round of rule by the same people we overthrew in Edsa I and II can't possibly stem the tide of Filipinos engulfing distant shores.

Friends have asked me not entirely in jest if I have not contemplated doing so myself. I have answered not entirely in jest that the thought of government remaining in the hands of someone who has robbed this country of its hope or falling in the hands of someone who offers a false one is enough to drive me to it. Someone from Toronto, Canada, did write me once to suggest that if I ever decide to live abroad, I should do so there. The huge community of Filipinos there, he said, already knows me very well since a Filipino newspaper has made money off me putting out my columns week in and week out since I started writing them in the late 1980s. Well, I've always been shareware, but surely those guys can send me a ticket or two and sponsor a visit?

No, my friends may rejoice and my enemies may renounce, but I'm staying put. The reason for it is neither lack of opportunity nor resolute nationalism. Though it doesn't hurt to have the second. I've always said too that part of what makes this country hopeless is the attitude that we can always leave the country by becoming OFWs in Saudi or caregivers in the United States or Canada when it begins to look hopeless. Other Southeast Asians do not think that way.

My more compelling reasons for wanting to stay put are twofold. The first is that for all this country's troubles and for all its people's foibles, this country is still a good place to live in. It is at least still a place that allows you to get up and smell the flowers, as they say. Elsewhere, you get up and you smell only coffee—if you are lucky. You wake up and you are rushing to begin the first of your two (or more) jobs. That is what Filipinos abroad do, work their asses off to earn bread, or often to cure acute homesickness. Their idea of a night out in the middle of the week is like our idea of fast in the middle of Christmas.

Of course they do earn the bread, which is more than can be said for many folk here. It's a matter of trade-off. I personally cannot imagine exchanging the time I spend living (and loving) for the time I spend making a living (and digging my grave), even if the second stands to bring me more money.

Which brings me to the second point. I can understand the desperate wanting to work abroad, I can't understand the fairly well off seeking even greener pastures. One can always say one is doing it for the kids, so they'd have the leisure to do what one has always wanted to but never had the chance. But the irony there is that all the kids learn, by the power of example, is to do exactly the same thing, to kill themselves all their lives for their own kids. A vicious cycle if there ever was one.

There is an alternative to it, and that is a simpler life. And simpler and fuller life. How much do you really need to be happy? What makes acquiring more and more money counterproductive isn't just that you never really get to the point where you have the leisure to spend it, it is that the act of acquisition becomes the enjoyment unto itself. It is the miser's happiness. Can't people be happy anymore enjoying the company of a book, even of the romance fiction variety? Can't people be happy anymore listening to the music of the tribe of Bach or the *parokya* of Edgar? Can't people be happy anymore watching a movie entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival or not? Can't people be happy anymore just walking through a park, or down the alleyways of Avenida or Chinatown, discovering the treasures that lie hidden there?

I'd rather leave the kids that than money.

Happy new year, everyone.

VP race takes center stage

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SAN FRANCISCO—A Blessed New Year to all. May the new year bring us better times and even though we face an election year, our fondest hope is that it will be peaceful and non-violent.

We're on the last leg of our brief vacation, catching our plane to Manila from this beautiful city by the Bay. Our stay in the Pacific Northwest and reunion with members of my husband's family here has been quite tiring, but also fun and wonderful. We had a good send-off from the weatherman last Tuesday morning, as we woke up in Portland with snow falling all over the place. In the mountainous eastern part of Oregon a blizzard was in full fury, but I understand that snow comes to the city only once every four years.

* * *

The vice-presidential race has taken center stage with Sen. Noli de Castro agreeing to become President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate, something that didn't surprise anyone. Kabayan has been the strongest contender for vice president and he could repeat the phenomenon scored by GMA in 1998, when she outstripped winning presidential candidate Joseph Estrada by a mile. The 2001 senatorial topnotcher was recruited for his crowd-drawing ability, and if Loren Legarda runs as Fernando Poe Jr.'s vice president, as she wants to do, that will be a good fight. But Noli has the edge.

What came as a surprise was Raul Roco's choice of former Tarlac representative and governor Hermie Aquino as his running mate. Hermie, the uncle-in-law of the late Ninoy Aquino, is a good friend, but he is not a political anybody especially now, so that his recruitment inevitably leaves people wondering whether Roco's campaign is serious at all. There are a number of VP material who would want to run with Raul, as after all he remains among the top candidates; but the problem is he doesn't have the logistics to support his campaign; thus his running mate would have to virtually fend for himself.

* * *

The American consumer transacts business largely through electronic marketing, and this includes plane reservations which are paid by credit card and confirmed by e-mail. Trying to book ourselves via electronic ticketing to San Francisco, we witnessed the mad scramble for plane seats as New Year's Eve approached; and since prices are governed entirely by the law of supply and demand, plane ticket prices kept changing by the hour despite the many available flights.

We confined ourselves to the West Coast in this visit largely because of the brief time available and the difficulty of bookings over the holiday season, as the US population crisscrossed the nation for family gatherings and vacations. I had to be content with phone linkups with my businessman-writer brother Roger Olivares in Atlanta; my nephew Ramon Luis Olivares and his wife, Risa Dayao, a nurse at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., my doctor-nephew Edwin O. del Rosario in Dallas and other relatives across the US. But as I tracked them down, I learned a lot about the vastness of this land which has three time zones. Some examples: it takes five hours to cross the US by plane from coast to coast; over 10 hours to drive through Texas from north to south on the freeway, and nearly five hours to drive from one side of Washington state to the other.

* * *

Tracing family roots has been a popular undertaking around the world, as people seek to find stability and solace in human relations amid all the instability around us. It's far easier to do so back home as our country is much smaller and people don't move as much as in the US, although records are often non-existent. Luckily, some years back some members of a big Filipino clan began tracing their roots as far back as the early 1700s and persisted. Six generations have been traced all over the Bicol region, Metro Manila, the US and Canada—a huge family tree involving the Ramirez, Villamor, Duran, Asuncion, Medina and Loilo families of Masbate and Sorsogon.

This Saturday, Jan. 3, three generations are gathering at the Pillas Compound at I. Lopez corner Martinez Sts. in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, from 3-8 p.m. for a big, first-ever clan reunion. I happen to belong to the fifth generation and the reunion organizers are appealing through this column to other relatives to show up and be counted, and bring food and drinks to help feed about 200 relatives expected.

* * *

Back in the early 1800s, Timotea Cervantes and Andres Ramirez from Masbate and Sorsogon, respectively, married and from their union sprang nine children. The eldest, Timoteo, had four children; Eduvijes had six from her union with a certain Belsa; Dolores who was married to a Medina, had one child; Remedios married an Asuncion and had nine children, while Andres Jr. had three; Barbara, married to a Loilo, had six children; Nicolasa, married to a Duran, had one child; the last two children, Petrona, married to a Villamor, and Rosario each had two children.

* * *

I sprang from the Ramirezes' first daughter, Eduvijes, with my maternal grandmother, Rosa, as her eldest child, who, in turn, produced nine or ten children from her union with Marcelo Pasimio, a professor of Spanish in the University of Nueva Caceres who later worked with a Spanish newspaper in Manila. Their eldest child was my mother, Angustias, one of the earliest UP graduates, who married businessman Luis Olivares of Sta. Cruz and San Pedro, Laguna. The Olivareses produced 10 children of their own, who in turn sired a second and third generation numbering well over 70 children and grandchildren at the latest count.

Interested parties are asked to confirm their reunion attendance by calling either Pacita Villamor, 532-0203, cell 0927-404-5991; Danny Olivares, 681-5746 and 681-8166, cell 0917-400-4713; Aster Mojica, 911-7652 and 911-3019, cell 0917-824-4938, or Tony Duran, 743-2348 and cell 0927-290-4162.

Nothing to cry about

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON THE SURFACE, "Crying Ladies" tells the stories of three women who earn a living crying for the dead, forcing tears from their eyes and sobs from their chests for a stranger (well, not exactly a stranger, but we're getting ahead of our story) when their lives give them plenty of reasons to cry—for themselves.

But indulging in self-pity is a luxury none of the three women can afford or are inclined to engage in.

Hilda Koronel plays a faded movie starlet whose main claim to fame is being trampled on by the giant in "Darna and the Giants." She seeks to revive her lost "glory" by pushing her teenage daughter into reluctant stardom while pushing her acting skills on ungrateful and clueless park goers at the "horror house" in an amusement park.

Angel Aquino is a secular saint who devotes her time and energies to helping out in various charitable institutions and confessing her sins to an exasperated priest. The trouble is that despite her good heart, she is burdened by a lustful bent, particularly for the husband of a pregnant friend. Finding escape in more than a little cuddle with her married lover, she seeks redemption in penance only to fall yet one more time.

Finally, there is the character played by Sharon Cuneta, whose role in "Crying Ladies" is yet the bravest move of her career. This time, she's no sweet colegiala on the throes of first love, an abandoned wife, self-effacing stepmother or any variation of the "good" woman. She is instead a con woman, someone who lives by her wits and lets no opportunity to make a quick buck escape her. Clearly, this is no pushover, except, that is, when it comes to her son and her estranged husband, who take advantage of her vulnerability as a mother to bully and harangue her. Three Filipinas, three unique characters but all embodying aspects of womanhood and survival in this land at this time.

* * *

"CRYING LADIES" may focus its story on the three lachrymose friends but its gaze falls on the rest of Philippine society as well, casting a humorous, indulgent eye on Filipino ways and customs, particularly the way we honor the dead.

The family holding the wake in the movie may be ethnic Chinese, but many of their practices and scenes at the funeral parlor echo the rituals employed by Pinoy families.

There's the scene of the mourner who visits the wrong deceased, the Chinese family's "*segurista*" approach to divine intervention, calling on both Buddhist monks and Catholic priests to hasten the dead's way to Heaven, and the regular accounting of "*abuloy*" or cash assistance, meticulously recorded and announced in banners.

Eric Quizon impresses with his understated acting as the eldest son of the deceased businessman, his face a mask and his voice a patient drone as first, he informs his relatives and family friends about his father's death, and then must endure countless retellings of how his father met his Maker. But the young man nurses a sore spot in his heart, a son's resentment of a philandering father. It is this hidden and repressed anger that prevents him from fully grieving for his dead parent, until he comes upon proof of how, despite his failings, his father had loved and valued his first-born.

And there's the poignant scene in which the "official" widow tells her son the story of how she had come to terms with her husband's second family, realizing that much as she was pained by her husband and his former secretary's betrayal, she could not in conscience punish their child for it.

* * *

FROM THE VERY start, with its impressive opening credits, "Crying Ladies" captivated me. Others have commented on its independent "feel," its eschewing of local movie conventions and scripted clichés, it's skillful interpretation, with unusual camera angles and witty juxtapositions and transitions.

Best of all, the movie demonstrates just how essential is an intelligent, substantial but also clever, humorous and compassionate script to the making of a movie that not only tells a good story but offers viewers insights into their own lives and the society they live in.

While other movies and moviemakers would have taken the easy route and given our three heroines spectacular triumphs, Mark Meily, who wrote and directed the film, shows us instead that there are outcomes that may not, at first, seem particularly victorious but are nonetheless significant milestones.

The crying ladies don't always get their heart's desires, but they find redemption in ways entirely consistent with their personalities and karma.

* * *

THIS is my first column for the year, and it gladdens me that it should be about a movie that bodes well for the troubled local movie industry.

I have yet to watch the other films in the festival which word of mouth says is unexpectedly excellent and satisfying this time, with a number of films that aspire to be more than just box-office success. My most immediate resolution is to watch as many of these movies as I can, my way of wishing local show business a more prosperous and artistically significant year, and one that could, let's pray, lift it out of the artistic and commercial rut it finds itself in.

Local producers and filmmakers don't have to look far for inspiration or emulation. "Crying Ladies" is entirely deserving of the honors and acclaim heaped on it, showing the industry how, with bravery, audacity and faith, a new producer, an untested director and writer and a major star with pluck and an eye for quality can pool their resources to give the public a film that entertains, amuses and pays homage to the country and people who inspired it. "Crying Ladies" gives us all cause to believe it'll be a happy new year.

Woman clutching her umbrella

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SHE is the year-end image that continues to stay on my mind. She was on the national screen shortly before Christmas day. An elderly woman in a squatting position, looking down on her dead kin, then looking up in supplication to those around her. There she was, in her frail form, squeezing, wringing her folded umbrella with her hands. The mud outlines around her finger nails were dark enough for me to see. She had come from a muddy place where the earth cascaded like a river in a fit of rage, engulfing her village and taking away hundreds of lives, homes, farms, the scent of wild flowers and ripening fruit.

She could not muster a wail. Her weeping was faint, for that was all that her lungs could let out. But her hands looked strong and able, wrapped around her folded umbrella. These hands she used to dig earth, sow seeds, cut firewood, build fire, rock the hammock, bathe the babies and the beasts, move mountains. Suddenly mud and water poured on her village. Suddenly she was helpless and left with nothing. She lost the people that defined her home. She lost them to the mud.

Payong na sira-sira. It could not protect her from the rain. But the umbrella was all she could lean on now and use like a staff, a crutch. She wrung it like wet laundry as if this act, this movement could hasten the coming of tears and drain the pain from the deepest parts of her where she had stored her small dreams and village memories.

There is something about tattered umbrellas and people in distress who hold them folded and close to their chests that shake the boulders inside me. I once interviewed a bunch of long-term prison inmates for a couple of days and I remember this one prisoner who always came to the visiting hall with his wet umbrella. It was like his most prized possession.

I've always had a soft spot for the men who go around the city streets during the rainy season to repair umbrellas for a small sum. They carry with them skeletons of discarded umbrellas which are their source of spare parts. They shout, "*Gumagawang payong!*"

Englishmen who carry their brollies like a cane and walk with an understated swagger conjure up in me a different thing altogether. I think of English biscuits and tea.

What was it like for the woman with the umbrella? What was the picture like inside her, what was the state of her heart, the color of her grief, the sound of the rage in her soul? Was she angry? Did she wish to die, to have been carried away too, to that place where, they say, there is no more weeping and gnashing of teeth and where tears are wiped away forever from one's eyes? What were the names of those she lost? How deep was the well from where she could draw strength to live on? Will her wounds ever heal? Will she be able to live through this and live long enough to see the trees grow once again and cover the landscape of her youth?

Yea, but does God listen to small people like her? Where is She/He? Where are the green pastures and flowing streams for people like her?

It has been a difficult year, the run-up to December especially, when the "ber" months started closing down on us to announce happy days were ahead. We had hoped to see a glorious end to all the strife and the terror and the grief. But what did we get? Not just more of the same but worse than the same. The year was a let-down. I rage.

I try to write with hope as the music swells suddenly beside me (I rarely write with the music on) and as the lyrics rain down on the faint sound of the violin that seems so far away. "Oooh, remember when it rained, I felt the ground and looked up high and called your name... In the water I remain... running down, running down..." It's a prayer of yearning maybe.

But how apt, I thought. Better than "Jingle Bells" which does not mean anything. "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" is one of my favorite Christmas hymns, by the way, and I could not help thinking of the place, which I had visited in 1997. I read somewhere that the place was recently set apart with a wall to ward off terrorists, making it difficult for Palestinian Christians to cross over to attend services at the Church of the Nativity.

Many people are living on the edge. People are in search of epiphanies. So hold on just a little longer to the afterglow of the blessed season, savor just a little longer the Christmas sweetness that settled in your soul. We need to conserve the peace inside us to be convinced that there are lessons and meaning in everything that happened in the past year.

Now we brace ourselves for what is to come and allow ourselves a little righteous anger. The elections are just a few months away. Some look forward to them with hope for deliverance from this vale of tears, others look ahead with dread. The exercise could lead us farther to the edge.

But what the heck. Let us welcome the new year with great expectation. Let us look for manifestations of hope, catch the sparks that could grow big and set ablaze our hearts.

The shroud of grief will lift, and as the psalmist said, joy comes in the morning.

* * *

A blessed new year to everyone. And to all those who sent instant feedback via e-mail (and via snail mail too), thank you, whoever, wherever you are.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

'Lord of the Rings': Not just fantasy

YOUNG BLOOD

Antonio C. Briza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE EPIC trilogy "The Lord of the Rings" will draw to a close with the showing of its last segment, "The Return of the King." The past two installments have left the viewers fascinated and terrified with the discovery of realms beautiful and dreadful, characters admirable and detestable, tales delightful and mournful, set in a land called Middle Earth.

Fantasy, escape from reality, many would say. But this is not how J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of this epic trilogy, envisioned it to be. Tolkien saw fantasy as a plunge into reality rather than an escape from it. Fantasy provides the writer a greater degree of freedom to emphasize certain aspects of truth.

There are some who suggest that "The Lord of the Rings" is an allegory, either biblical or historical. Tolkien rejected this idea. He wrote in his foreword to "The Lord of the Rings": "I much prefer history, true or feigned, with its varied applicability to the thought and experience of readers. I think that may confuse 'applicability' with 'allegory'; but the one resides in the freedom of the reader and the other in the purposed domination of the author." Allegory for Tolkien is a crude form of literature. He is more concerned about history and its applicability; in other words, about the truth and its application in life.

This is what we discover in "The Lord of the Rings." The book contains truths about man, his end and his quest to reach that end. It conveys realities that you and I encounter in real life. The author would not be happy with a superficial treatment of his work. The readers have to uncover the realities present in the book and to apply them in their lives. This is what I now dare to undertake.

"The Lord of the Rings" tells about the quest of the free peoples of Middle Earth to overthrow the Dark Lord Sauron by destroying the One Ring that will allow him to take control of all the lands and inhabitants of Middle Earth. Sauron, his One Ring, and his dwelling place Mordor, are forms of evil. So are the Balrog, the Ringwraiths, the Orcs, the Uruk-hai and Saruman. These are the evil elements that Frodo and the rest of the protagonists in the story have to contend with.

In the world we live in, we also find evil in its many forms. War, poverty and suffering are physical evils that are difficult to understand. But even more difficult to understand are moral evils. Why is there too little respect for human life, the dignity of the person and the sacredness of sex? Where now are the models of love, justice and purity? Moral evil, sin, is the foundation of all evils. Poverty, war and suffering exist because man has sinned, and continues to sin.

Frodo encountered different forms of evil in the story, including Gollum, a ring bearer once, who had succumbed to the evil spell of the One Ring. He asks Gandalf why his uncle Bilbo once spared the life of Gollum: "It's a pity Bilbo didn't kill him when he had the chance." Gandalf replies, "...Many that live deserve death. Some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them, Frodo? Do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. Even the very wise cannot see all ends."

"If God exists, why is there evil in the world?" many would ask. Gandalf sheds a light to the answer: "Even the very wise cannot see all ends." We, creatures that we are, however intelligent we may be, cannot see all ends. We cannot see all the reasons behind the things that happen around us. We only see one aspect of reality; we only see one piece of the puzzle of life that the Almighty has marvelously designed for our best. Gandalf, moreover, tells Frodo, "My heart tells me that Gollum still has some part to play yet, for good or ill before this is over." We see that God allows evil to draw out a greater good from it. If Bilbo had killed Gollum, could Frodo and Sam have found their way to Mordor? C.S. Lewis, a friend of Tolkien, believes that God allows suffering so that we can love and so that those who suffer can be loved.

At the Prancing Pony, Aragorn describes the Ringwraiths to Frodo: "They were once men. Great kings of men. Then Sauron the Deceiver gave to them nine rings of power. Blinded by their greed, they took them without questioning, one by one falling to darkness. Now they are slaves to his will. They are the Nazgul. Ringwraiths." The nine rings of men, and indeed the One Ring itself, could be viewed as symbols of pride, of sin. In the Ringwraith, we see the effects of sin. In sin, you enjoy a greater "power" to do what you please, to do things without restriction. But little by little, it corrupts your innermost self, transforming you to a mere phantom, possessing so much and yet losing your very self. Instead of enjoying the dignity of man, capable of doing good and knowing the truth, you end up behaving like an animal, submitting to your passions and instincts without the rule of reason. Although God could make something good from evil, we cannot allow ourselves to fall under its clutches. We have to wage war against it. In "The Lord of the Rings," this struggle between good and evil is not just presented in a grandiose way, e.g., in the grand battles that take place between the armies of elves, men and dwarves against the armies of Sauron and Saruman. It is also seen in some of the individual characters. Smeagol and his alter ego Gollum is one good example of this. Smeagol-Gollum deliberates with himself whether he should help Frodo or betray him so that he could take possession of the One Ring.

This happens to each one of us also. Each one of us has to wage that war between good and evil in the intimacy of our soul. It is only through conquering that battle that we will begin to contribute to the good of society.

Galadriel looks at Frodo and says, "This task has been appointed to you, and if you don't find a way, no one will." Frodo has received a mission of colossal importance, affecting not him alone, but the entire Middle Earth. To accomplish it, he must go against his inclinations to peace and quiet and launch himself out into a dangerous adventure.

We also have our own mission in life that we need to discover. How many of us know this? How many of us live with a sense of direction? How many of us live only for the day, living each day without knowing how or asking why?

Each one of us has to ask himself, "What is my mission in life? What does God want me to accomplish in this life? How can I have a positive influence on those around me, and on society in general?" Great evils, physical and moral, exist in the world. What am I doing about them? Like Frodo, each one of us has received a mission, in a specific way, to combat the evils that exist in the world. We cannot shrink from this responsibility.

Antonio C. Briza, 27, is a MS Computer Science student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He is also part of an NGO that fosters youth formation.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

Road questions we'd like answered

WHY, after just one rainy season, are our roads badly damaged?

Do you think they were built according to the right specs?

Since the government paid top money for them, to whom did the cost difference go?

Who are the government officials approving them and authorizing payments for them?

What's this so-called "computerized Internet bidding procedure"?

What's this requirement of awarding to the lowest "qualified" bidder?

Who are these "qualified" bidders?

How come you never heard of them?

What's their track record?

Have they actually constructed any roads or buildings?

If so, why were the roads they constructed badly damaged after just one rainy season?

Why do reputable contractors, like Ayala or Consunji, never participate in government biddings?

Maybe they think these so-called "bidding procedures" are all "b. s."?

—LEON M. MANALO,
salvejdm@mydestiny.net

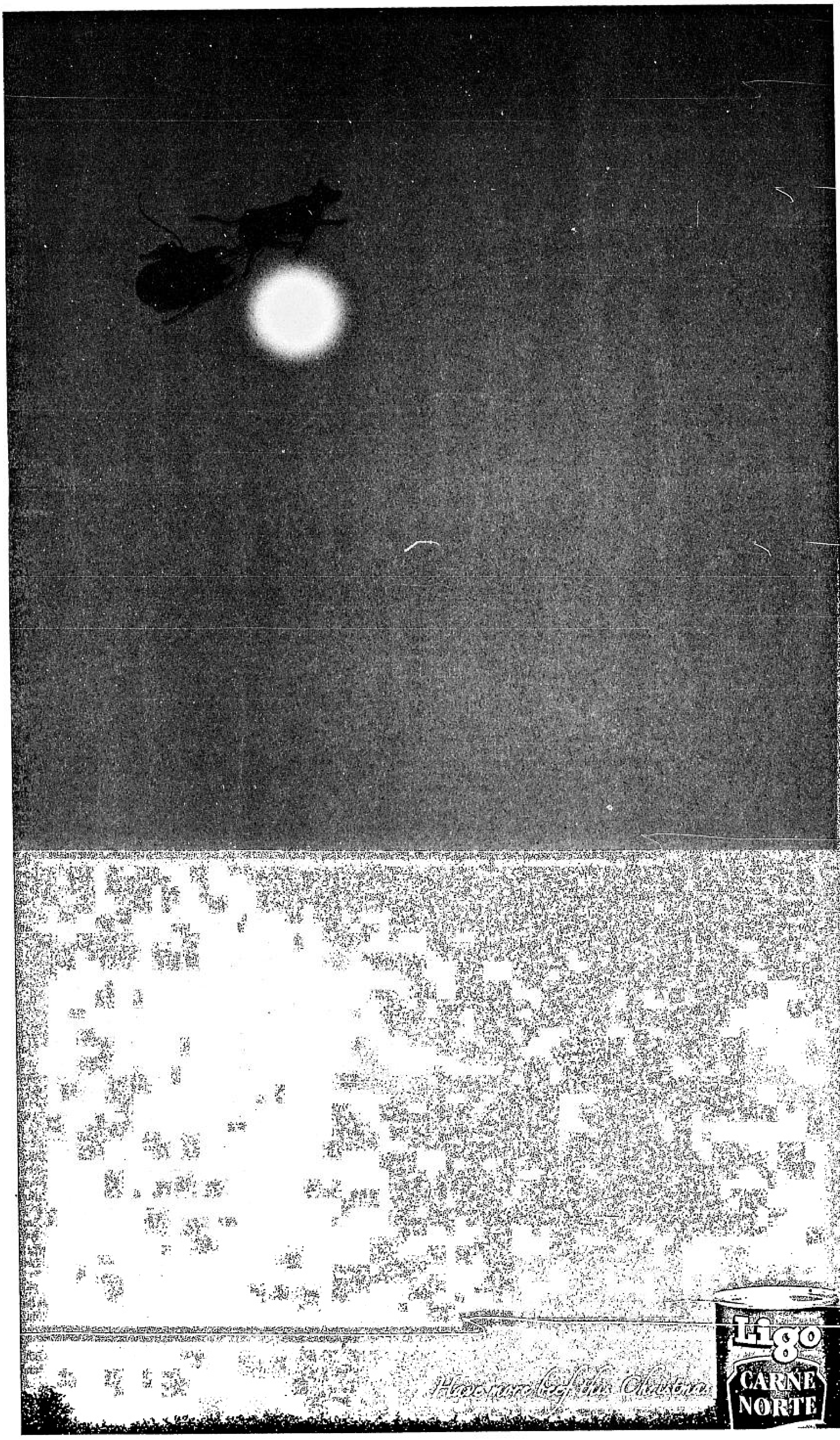
For a national ID system

I AM in favor of the implementation of the national ID system. On the positive aspect, it could be a way for law enforcers to track down criminals. They will have easier access to them and it should be easier to determine who are really outlaws, communists or law-abiding citizens. It is a tool that could help lessen criminality in our society.

If somebody does not submit himself to this system, it will be to his own disadvantage. He could no longer transact business with the government or even with private entities. With this identification system, anyone, employed or jobless, can just present a valid ID. There will be no other documents needed to prove his identity as a Filipino. It is a good identification card, making him a bona fide member of Philippine society.

Let us do things that could help attain peace.

—FLORENCIO A. DIO,
Magnolia Street, Pacita Complex I,
San Pedro, Laguna



Mang Dencio's annual report

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOME readers might remember Mang Dencio, who was my father's driver for many years until one day in 1998, a stroke sent him into early retirement. He was only 58 then. I wrote about him a year after his stroke, describing his trials and tribulations as he went through the bureaucratic maze to get his SSS disability benefits. The response was immediate, kind people at the Social Security System calling in to help out with his papers.

Mang Dencio kept in touch, usually visiting around Christmas to ask about my parents, and their dogs, and cats, and to tell me how he's doing. I thought I should share his latest "annual report" because Mang Dencio is, in many ways, the Juan de la Cruz we rarely hear about, probably one of those who would have expressed, as 90 percent of respondents did in the Social Weather Stations' latest survey, hope and optimism for the new year.

Usually the first thing I ask Mang Dencio about are his disability payments. I have a special interest here because several years back, I told my parents I would start paying SSS and Medicare (now Philhealth) for Mang Dencio as well as their household helpers. The idea seemed strange then, many people thinking then (and now) that it's a waste to make contributions to SSS for household staff.

I had Mang Dencio on SSS and Philhealth for only about five years before he had his stroke but because of those payments we were able to reimburse some of his hospital expenses and apply for his disability pay. Unfortunately, he is apparently not entitled to pension payments because he had fewer than 10 years on his SSS. His wife had wisely enrolled herself in the SSS as a self-employed person for more than 10 years, and is now getting a monthly check of about a thousand pesos. "*Maliit*" (small), Mang Dencio says about the pension, but, "*OK lang*", it does help.

Mang Dencio's disability payments of about P1,500 a month have stopped because the SSS eventually gave him a lump sum, which he described as "*malaki*" (big). "Big" was of course relative, amounting to P28,000, a huge sum indeed for Mang Dencio and his wife. They used the money to add two rooms to their home and buy a refrigerator to stock soft drinks to sell. Rent on the two rooms at P1,500 each, their "*sari-sari* store," and his wife's SSS pension check bring an average of about P4,500 a month. OK *lang*, he says, enough to live by, including his medicines for his blood pressure.

His health, too, is "*OK lang*". He limps along and had two close brushes with new strokes, one time when he thought he'd smoke "just one" cigarette, another time when he couldn't resist a swig with former drinking buddies. His friends rushed him to the local government health center, where the staff took care of him while sermoning him on his "just one more" attitude. He goes regularly to the center for check-ups, and advice on what to eat, on how to exercise. He's learned to buy generic versions of his medicines, which further stretches his budget.

Mang Dencio's annual report always includes an update on his house. About 10 years ago, he was able to acquire "rights" to a piece of land, part of a local government initiative of low-cost housing. I haven't figured out how this "rights" system works but it seems to be quite widespread in urban areas. When Mang Dencio first got his "rights," he was gushing with excitement, describing the lot as "*malaki.*" It was 72 square meters, big given that our last national census in 2000 found that the average living space of a Filipino household was all of 29 square meters.

Mang Dencio built his home slowly, over the years, a bit here, a bit there, going horizontally, then vertically. Part of his house was built on recycled materials, stuff he'd pick up from my parents whenever they'd renovate. He still doesn't own his lot but has set aside money, waiting for the National Housing Authority to deliver on promises of titles. But he's worried. The area's developing rapidly and he suspects big-time housing developers are going to come in, and that they'll lose their rights.

Mang Dencio has a son, and he knows he's fortunate he only had that one child, who they were able to send all the way through vocational school. They sold their carabao back in Iloilo to get him a passport and pay placement fees for a job overseas but nothing came out of that. He shrugs his shoulders, "OK *lang*." Having the son around is good, too, he says. The son was crazy about karaoke so they bought a VCD player but that sent their Meralco bill soaring so he's packed it up again. The monthly bill went down from P700 to P620. Eighty pesos, I was reminded, meant big savings for Mang Dencio.

And so Mang Dencio's annual report went, his descriptions of the big and the small reminding me how relative the terms are. I am amazed at how he stretches P4,500 to meet his family's needs, but appreciate, too, how "small" investments, whether through SSS payments or visits to the health center, do make a world of a difference for survival.

And while I'd nod whenever Mang Dencio would go, "OK *lang*," I still feel he and most Filipinos deserve more, much more. I don't see why anyone has to sell their only carabao to send a son or daughter to work overseas. And I don't know why government can't get its act together with housing, allowing a system of land "rights" without titles. And while I'm happy that Mang Dencio gets extra rental income from two rooms, I can imagine the pressure felt by a family, usually migrants from rural areas, who have to pay P1,500 a month for a room.

Especially with elections coming around, we're going to see politicians grabbing every opportunity to get publicity, posing with the children, giving out T-shirts and caps. It takes so little to win votes because Filipinos demand too little and are too quick to decide, OK *lang*, after one of those show-biz performances. And because our politics is so show biz, politicians never get to sit down and seriously listen to "annual reports" like those of Mang Dencio, describing how they work and save for the future and the small things from government that do count in many a Filipino's big simple dreams.

* * *

Comments miguel@pinoykasi.net

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Lakas fortifying local poll slates

BAGUIO CITY—The administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats has started fortifying its provincial, city and municipal slates after discovering that the confusion over the opposition standard-bearer had also split the opposition down to the grassroots.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, Lakas Cordillera coordinator, said party members in the provinces have been mobilized after First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo announced to them on Saturday at the presidential Mansion that Sen. Noli de Castro will be the party's vice presidential candidate.

De Castro announced his candidacy on Monday.

Arroyo met with Lakas leaders here a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared in Dagupan City that she was skipping her annual Baguio holiday vacation.

Lawyer Edgar Avila, Cordillera coordinator for the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) and erstwhile Lakas member, said the candidacy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and actor Fernando Poe Jr. forced local political aspirants to slow down their campaign work.

"We need to find out (which opposition standard-bearer we are supposed to support)," Avila, who is planning to run for Baguio mayor, said.

But he said the opposition slates are already set, and are simply awaiting the Commission on Elections decision on who between Poe and Lacson is the official opposition standard-bearer.

Domogan said Lakas also faced the same difficulties during the 2001 elections, when multiple party candidates vying for the same elective posts ended up being endorsed by both the Lakas leaders and by the People Power Coalition.

Domogan became a victim of that practice when both he and his congressional rival, lawyer Pablito Sanidad, ended up running against each other as Lakas and PPC standard-bearers for Baguio representative in 2001.

"That's the problem with our multiparty system. When one party member fails to be nominated, he leaves and runs under a different party. That (practice) is what we (need to resolve)," Domogan said.

He said Lakas needs to abide by a new agreement to decentralize the formation of party slates to local coordinators in order to correct the 2001 error.

"It's important that the party leaders allow local leaders to decide their slates," said Domogan. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Payumo, Gordon conflict turns into 'streamer war' in Olongapo, Subic

OLONGAPO CITY—The rift between Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon over the proposed Subic port development project continues to heat up as supporters of both officials started to resort to a "streamer war."

Streamers hurling derogatory words and calling each camp names were hung along the streets in this city and the entrance of the Subic Bay freeport.

The pro-Gordon streamers, many of which were hung near the freeport, criticized the proposed Subic port project.

Among the streamers' messages are "No way to port in Cubi, No kickback for Payumo," "The Cubi port (development) poses a clear and present danger to Olongapo City," "*Tutulan ang* port (development) *ni* Payumo, *dulot nito'y kapahamakan sa mga taga*-Olongapo," and "Stop irresponsible port (development) at SBMA."

Streamers

But people entering the freeport will also be greeted by anti-Gordon streamers.

One of these streamers said, "Port (development) ni Shareman Gordon: Jet ski, *nambulabog* ng fish sanctuary; Yacht Club, *pang mayaman lamang*; bungee jumping *sa* Alava Pier; *anomalya sa* bidding ng (Navy Supply Depot) container yard. Ang galing mo Shareman! WOW mali!"

The streamer took a dig at Gordon's "WOW! Philippines" project in the Department of Tourism.

Other anti-Gordon streamers criticized Olongapo officials for the dirty waterways and flooding in the city, and the officials' local projects.

The Gordons, including Mayor Katherine Gordon, have been opposing the $215-million Subic port development project, citing several environmental concerns over the possible damage to the marine environment in Cubi Point once the proposed port is built.

Gordon, who is also the Cabinet officer for regional development in Central Luzon, is the former SBMA chair.

Gordon said the Naval Supply Depot in Subic Bay is a site "good enough" for the project, noting that the World Bank had already identified the area as "an ideal site" for handling containerized cargo.

Payumo, on the other hand, said the NSD is a "cramped location" and would not be capable of handling bigger and modern cargo ships in the future.

Criticisms

He said Gordon has no business opposing the project and urged the tourism secretary to stop criticizing the port project.

About 1,000 supporters of the Gordons staged a rally in this city on Nov. 4 to assail the port project.

But amid opposition, SBMA officials recently opened the envelopes containing the proposed financial costs of the qualified bidder for the port project.

The Penta Ocean, Shimizu and Toa consortium, three of the top engineering and construction companies in Japan, submitted the lowest cost bid.

The joint venture had offered a P5,225,772,092 bid, about P360 million lower than the bid of Toyo Corp., also of Japan.

Payumo said that the opening of the financial bid indicates that the Subic port project would push through despite opposition raised by the Gordons and their supporters.

Interference

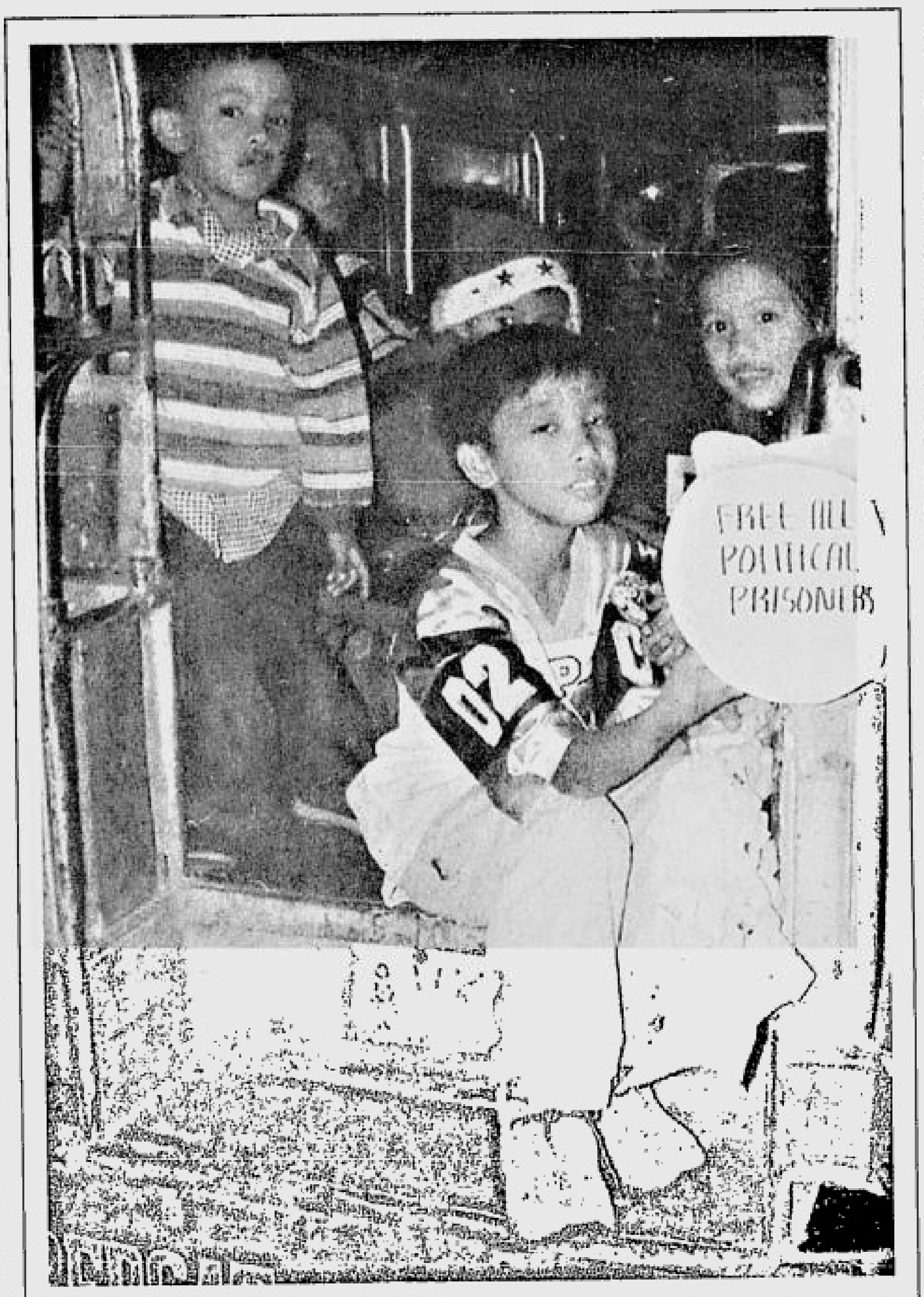
Payumo had accused Gordon of interfering in the affairs of the SBMA following Gordon's failed bid to keep control of the SBMA as the authority's chair.

Gordon's name was included in the list of candidates for senator of the ruling party Lakas-CMD.

Critics of the tourism secretary said Gordon wants to keep control of SBMA as if it was his own fiefdom.

But the Gordon camp said the port project inside Subic would unnecessarily burden the government with additional loans and high interests.

The Payumo-Gordon feud had turned ugly in a recent meeting at the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) during which Payumo and Bases Conversion and Development Authority chair Rufo Colayco Jr. were harassed by Gordon supporters. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



HOLIDAY WISH

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI PHOTO

These children, whose relatives are detained as political prisoners, present their fervent wish these holidays—freedom for all prisoners with political offenses.

8 PMA cadets win case to stop probe of cheating

BAGUIO CITY—Eight graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy won a 20-day injunction on Monday against a series of PMA investigations that they claimed had "violated their civil rights."

Judge Clarence Villanueva of the regional trial court here froze an ongoing PMA investigation of a minor cheating incident that implicated the cadets in September.

First Class Cadets Eddyson Abanilla, Bernardo Huerte, Jerome Lozada, Eugene Mojar, Jonathan Serote, Jay Tarriela, Jimmy Oliver Vingno and Euphraim Jayson Diciano said they were forced to undergo two independent probes, which denied them access to their lawyers.

Lawyer Abelardo Estrada, the cadets' chief counsel, said last week that the cadets should have unhampered access to their civil rights, despite their status as military personnel.

But PMA officials see the suit as an attack on the institution's "honor code."

Marine Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson, said PMA adheres to the constitutional provisions on civil rights.

What the cadets may have objected to is the conduct of the cadets' "honor committee" which traditionally does not require legal counsel, Arevalo said.

He said all cadets submit to the honor code, which forbids them from lying or cheating at the academy. Each incoming cadet subscribes to "a gentleman's agreement" that a cadet who violates this code must quickly resign or be ostracized by the PMA cadet corps until graduation.

Tarriela told Villanueva during a Dec. 22 injunction hearing that the cadets had to be tried by their peers when they were asked to face the honor committee.

The cadet said Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, formed a nine-member battalion board, which would hear the charges against the cadets.

Tarriela said the investigating bodies did not give their lawyers access to information that would be vital to their defense. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Landslide survivors get help from trauma experts

MAASIN CITY—They have been given food and shelter. Now, they will start getting food for the soul.

Even as relief goods continue to pour in for the survivors of the Southern Leyte landslides, trauma experts from the government and private sector have started arriving here to help the victims get over their ordeal.

At least eight psychologists, two from University of the Philippines-Cebu and five from the Good Shepherd nuns in Manila, arrived to conduct psychiatric treatment on the survivors of the tragedy that hit the towns of Liloan, San Francisco and San Ricardo in Panaon Island last week.

At the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council meeting on Sunday, officials from the Philippine National Red Cross told the PDCC that they have already sent to the evacuation centers two teams from the PNRC's Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing (CISD) to assist the survivors.

Fr. Edmund Resus, the parish priest of San Francisco, has revealed that even those not directly affected by the landslides have been traumatized by the tragedy.

When news that tropical depression "Zigzag" was going to hit Southern Leyte over the weekend, residents in seven barangays evacuated without prodding for fear that heavy rains would trigger another landslide.

The coastal barangay of Punta in San Francisco was the worst hit by the landslides, almost wiping out the whole village. The victims of Punta accounted for 105 of the 154 persons confirmed to have been killed by the series of landslides and floods that hit Southern Leyte on Dec. 19 and 20.

PDCC records showed that the remaining victims were from Barangay Pinut-an in San Ricardo (24), Liloan town (22) and Maasin City (3). The casualties from Maasin were drowning victims. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gloria says Dagupan City to become 'bangus' capital

A BANGUS delivery man is all smiles as he joins a festival in Dagupan City to honor the bangus.
RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI PHOTO

DAGUPAN CITY—From this city will come the fish that will feed the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo said here on Friday.

The President said this city's status as the country's "bangus (milkfish) capital" is becoming a reality with the inauguration of the Philippine Bangus Center (PBC) in Barangay Bonuan Binloc and the modern Dagupan Fish Market in downtown Dagupan. Ms Macapagal also released P20 million for the establishment of a bangus processing plant here.

The President also assured about 5,000 Pangasinan officials and residents that the province will play a vital role in rice production in the country. She said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi promised that the Japanese government would finance the construction of an irrigation project that will be connected to the San Roque multi-purpose dam in San Manuel town to irrigate agricultural lands in Pangasinan.

Ms Macapagal said the country will not import bangus fry anymore because the Philippine Bangus Center, which is under the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, will produce enough bangus fry that can supply the country's fishery sector.

The Philippines currently imports fry from Taiwan and Indonesia. These countries, she said, used to buy fry from the Philippines.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who accompanied the President during her visit here, said Dagupan has the largest production of bangus in Southeast Asia, at a yearly production of 200 to 300 million bangus fry.

Ms Macapagal said bangus cultured in this city and Pangasinan will not only be for domestic consumption, but will be processed at the soon to be built processing center for the export market. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Storm displaces 5,000 families

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Tropical storm "zigzag" displaced at least 5,000 families in Misamis Oriental, particularly in the towns of El Salvador and Opol.

Romy Remate, operations officer of the regional civil defense office in Northern Mindanao, said the lack of drainage complicated the residents' problem on flooding.

Remate said the evacuees were already given relief goods to sustain their stay in various evacuation centers in El Salvador and Opol.

The storm brought fears of another landslide in Southern Leyte where dozens were killed when mud and debris rushed into their villages.

The typhoon, however, changed direction and spared the province which is still reeling from the tragedy that was blamed on environmental destruction.

Authorities are still continuing relief operations in the province and the effects of the tragedy was expected to linger on. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

‘Bayanihan’ spirit builds retreat center

By Donna S. Virola
Tagaytay City

IT'S like magic," recounted engineer Cesar Yambao as he narrated how an international retreat center of the Brahma Kumaris (BK) was built "first with God's help, then with support from members of the non-government organization."

The two-story Brahma Kumaris (BK) Spiritual Learning Center that now stands on a 1,500-square meter lot at 1020 Magallanes Drive here, was built in just nine months, Yambao said.

It is said to be the first international retreat center in Asia of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University that was built outside its headquarters on Mount Abu in India. It has a meditation hall on the ground floor enough to accommodate about 200 people, and 12 guest rooms good for two each, and three dormitory-type rooms that could accommodate 10 to 15 persons each, for stay-in meditators on the second floor.

What makes the center unique is that it was built in the spirit of *bayanihan* (self-help) with students and friends of meditation pitching in their donations in cash and kind, including their labor, to realize their longtime vision.

"Other BK retreat centers were bought," said Sr. Becky Ortega, BK Philippines main center coordinator.

The other major retreat centers are located in Australia, London, Italy, New York, Germany, Nairobi and Russia.

Yambao said he left his job in the United States to work full time as a volunteer in the center and has had so far no regrets. Other volunteers are specialists in their areas, including a female architect.

Dadi Janki, an 87-year-old meditation practitioner, led the inauguration of the center on Nov. 20 last year, that gathered more than 200 BKs from all over the country.

The Brahma Kumaris

Also called the Academy for a Better World, the Brahma Kumaris is a recipient of numerous peace awards including one for being an International Peace Messenger.

The NGO was founded in 1936 by Brahma Baba, a successful businessman, in Karachi, Pakistan. Inspired by divine visions and committed to liberate women from being treated second-class citizens in India, he organized and formed young Indian women into leaders and servers.

Now in their 80s, these women, fondly called *dadis* (meaning elderly) by BK students, continue to inspire people from all over the world with their practical spirituality and leadership by example.

Today, BK has spread to 85 countries with around 5,000 centers.

Yearly, thousands of its students visit Mount Abu (where the dadis live), called Land of Honey, for the priceless experiences it provides tired souls.

Dadi Janki is one of the eminent individuals given the title "Wisdom Keeper" in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the 1996 Habitat II, the UN Conference on Human Settlements and the UN Worlds in Istanbul.

She is the director of the International Coordinating Office of the BK in London and the administrative head of the BKWSU.

Unique system

The BK is a human resource development institution that tries to be consistent in its teachings, said Sr. Becky.

It hired local workers as part of its forming good relations with its neighbors and coordinated with barangay officials in hiring 90 workers out of 150 applicants.

In the construction stage, workers were treated as children of God. They were given values classes and time to reflect on their work and relationships.

Their material needs were also attended to through a garage sale where they were able to buy shoes and clothes for as low as a penny. The garage sale was based on the principle of "no dole out" in order to preserve the dignity of an individual, according to Sr. Becky.

Every Thursday, workers were given a special vegetarian food called *bhog*, which is cooked in remembrance of God. Even if sometimes the food were only porridge, workers would eat them with gusto.

Food for the mind in the form of positive slogans were also posted around.

This jibes with Tagaytay City's push for a "Character City" where Sr. Becky served as a resource person in one of its major programs.

Regular BK students from all ages would come on weekends, clean up the area and help create vibrations of peace.

A "no smoking, no drinking, no staying overnight" policy was strictly implemented among all workers during the construction period.

"That's why there were no trouble, quarrel and noise. Vibrations are maintained here," said 49-year-old Manny Elemos, who was one of the full-time volunteers who played the role of "kuya" (older brother) among the workers.

Ferdie Ambion, 29, who neither reads nor writes, has learned to greet "Om shanty" (meaning "I am a peaceful soul") with a heartfelt smile. He said he was highly motivated to work because everybody was kind. "We are happy here," he added.

The general foreman was Brother Ambrose, a contractor from the Cordillera region, who also volunteered in the construction of BK houses in Hong Kong and Baguio.

Purchases

Purchases were made with full accountability—no kickbacks or commissions to the purchasers.

By explaining the mission of the institution during transactions, that is, that the center is a service area, special discounts were given. Good buys came from auctions. Lots of savings were made in every aspect of the construction like the P3-million savings on labor cost alone.

Determination, resourcefulness and faith enabled the construction of the center.

Another 1,100-square-meter area has been allotted to organic gardening where a dome-shaped meditation room is in the making. A third floor in the center is also lined up for construction, and needs more funds.

Among others, the BK center offers courses on positive thinking, stress-free living, self managing leadership, self-management for quality life and the secrets of self-esteem.

These are free of charge as a form of selfless service. Several offices, groups and individuals have actually been benefiting from this in other BK centers in Makati, Quezon City, Naga City, Cebu City, Baguio City and Davao City.

Demand for BK workshops has gone up and so, the need for a bigger retreat center, said Sr. Becky.

Already, there are bookings from Hong Kong and Japan for retreats and seminars.

HUNDREDS of balloons were let loose by students of Brahma Kumaris during the inauguration rites of their retreat center in Tagaytay. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YOUNG students of meditation add to the festive and familial mood with their folk dances. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEDITATION practitioners from India, including Dadi Janki (center with long gray hair), Sr. Jayanti (on her left), Sr. Rajni (behind Dadi Janki) get a rousing welcome from students of meditation during the retreat center's inauguration last Nov. 20. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mangyan folk still flock to towns on Xmas season

By Madonna T. Virola
Calapan City

MANGYAN folk continue to flock to the towns and city of Mindoro this Christmas season.

Yawin-ay Giayan, a leader of the Kapulungan para sa Lupaing Ninuno, a province-wide federation of Mangyans, has been going around the city and nearby towns, telling fellow Mangyans to return to the mountain and instead till the land.

"I've been telling them about this in the past six years but I can't stop them because they really make as high as P10,000 for one visit," he said.

Giayan, who is from the Bangon tribe in Bongabong town (south of Oriental Mindoro), however, points at the skin of the children who, he said, are the most affected in terms of health.

Too much exposure

"Because of excessive exposure to cold weather particularly when they spend the night on the streets, they acquire skin rashes, malaria, coughs and colds. Others hang around the church and municipal hall," the Mangyan leader said.

Other Mangyan folk go as far as Manila to ask for money or goods.

The Mangyan folk look forward to going down from the mountain and would save money for transportation. Many of them would be ready for this by November.

Giayan said the Mangyan indeed needs assistance but appeals to government officials. "They should centralize the assistance. Not little by little, to stop this Christmas gift-asking that turns out to be begging and downgrading to the Mangyan," Giayan adds.

He is sorry that the majority of Mangyan folk who do not go down to ask for Christmas gifts are affected by the growing perception that the Mangyans are begging.

With the elections around, Giayan expects politicians to visit the Mangyan areas.

"But we hope they would fulfill their promise to bring basic services," he says.

SOME Mangyans are taking steps to uphold their dignity by refusing to go to Manila to beg on Christmas. MADONNA T VIROLA

Boy from Mindoro celebrates first holiday without sickness

LEONARD on his hospital bed at the Philippine Heart Center with grandmother Rosario before the heart surgery. MEI MAGSINO

By Mei Magsino
Bansud, Oriental Mindoro

THE LONG wait was over. For the first time, the holidays were a joyful one for the Ruga family, which lost a daughter in a suicide bombing in Haifa, Israel 16 months ago.

Leonardo Mampusti, now five, and a son of a caregiver in Israel, was successfully operated on for his congenital heart disease, thanks to help from donors who read his story in the INQUIRER.

But mounting bills threatened his chance to celebrate his first Christmas and New Year out of the hospital.

The family's savings and a P200,000-donation from businessman Jolly Ting had made his surgery possible in October last year. But the boy's recovery became uncertain, prompting his doctors to make him stay longer in the hospital.

Another businessman from Quezon City, who learned of the boy's ordeal, sold his US dollar savings and wrote a P100,000-check to help pay for the bills.

"I've even sought help from some senators, from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and borrowed money from my pregnant wife," Ardel Ruga, the boy's guardian, said.

"But what's important now is that Leonard is safe and will have a normal life," she said.

Last Christmas could be one of the best they've ever had, for the Ruga family.

Sick boy

Leonardo's mother Febe has been working as a caregiver in Israel since the boy was only two years old.

His aunt, Febe's younger sister, Rebecca, who took care of him like he was her own son while his mother was abroad, also went to work in Israel to help pay for his medication.

Aside from the boy's congenital heart disease, he was also diagnosed with hypospadias.

On Aug. 10, 2002, Rebecca was killed together with another Filipina in a suicide bombing in a bus in Haifa, Israel. Hopes of helping the boy collapsed, as the family faced the loss of Rebecca, and more debts to pay.

Their story, published by the INQUIRER last year, got a good response from readers.

In September last year, the boy was taken to the Philippine Children's Hospital and the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City to prepare him for the surgeries: the first on his aorta, and the second, the open heart surgery.

But the surgery was postponed as the boy had to undergo more tests before the operation.

Finally, in October, with the family's savings and donations, the Rugas were able to prepare the boy for the surgery.

Complex surgery

Dr. Emerenciana Collado, who handled Leonardo's case, said the surgery was a complex one.

Dr. Serafin de Leon, a Filipino heart surgeon who practices in the United States, performed the surgery. De Leon comes to the Philippines once a year to perform complex heart surgeries for a cause. His professional fee goes to the hospital's foundation.

After the surgery, Leonardo was transferred to the intensive care unit to recover. But his condition worsened and he had to stay in the unit longer.

On the second week of December, Leonardo's condition got stable. "We were ready for discharge that time, but we couldn't go yet because the bills had doubled and we had exhausted all our resources to raise the money," Ardel said.

They had also asked the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and some senators for help. Another help came when a businessman from Quezon City sent them a P100,000 check, which added to their savings.

At about 5 p.m., Dec. 23, Leonard got out of the hospital and went home for Christmas.

"Up to now, we still couldn't believe that miracles could happen. Thanks to the strangers who cared. They are really God-sent," Ardel said.

When they went home to Bansud, Leonard's eyes regained the glitter of the little boy that captured the hearts of many, including his aunt Rebecca whose only hope before she died was to see him safe and healthy.

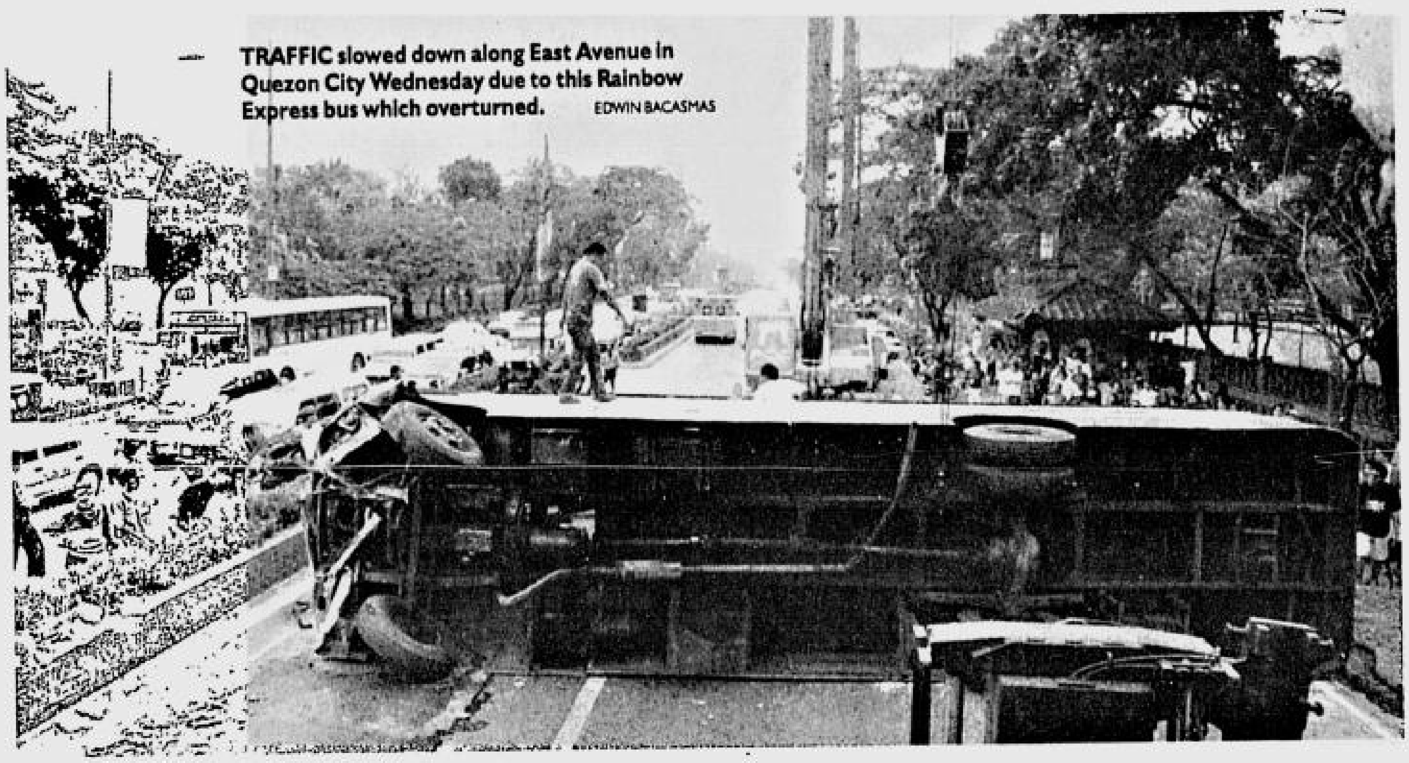
She might not have lived to see that day, but her sacrifice brought new hope for the little boy.

FOUR DIGIT
2 3 8 3
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
4 3 9

METRO

MEGALOTTO 6/45

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**



TRAFFIC slowed down along East Avenue in Quezon City Wednesday due to this Rainbow Express bus which overturned. EDWIN BACASMAS

Two passenger buses race in QC; 37 hurt

By Tina Santos

THIRTY-SEVEN people, including children, were hurt when a passenger bus flipped on its side while racing with another bus in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

The victims, who suffered minor injuries, were all passengers of a Baclaran-bound Rainbow Express bus (MXM 486) driven by Jorge Maputol, 38, of Camarin, Caloocan City.

Twenty-two of the victims were taken to the National Kidney Transplant Institute. The rest were rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center.

Traffic enforcer Jaime Ramos said the incident happened at about 3:55 p.m. along East Avenue in Quezon City, near the Elliptical Circle.

Initial investigation revealed that Maputol was racing with the driver of another passenger bus when they entered the Elliptical Road from Commonwealth Avenue.

As the two speeding buses turned right at East Avenue, Maputol lost control of the wheels and rammed the concrete barrier in the middle of the road. The impact threw the bus into the air and slammed it on its right side.

Maputol, who surrendered after the incident, claimed that he lost control of the bus because of an oil spill that made the road slippery.

He faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple physical injuries.

Faith, hope ablaze for fire victims

By Edson Tandoc Jr., Leila Salaverria and Luige del Puerto

A DEADLY fire ate up almost everything they had as 2003 came to a close. In spite of this, fire victims in Caloocan City are going into 2004 with hope blazing in their hearts.

Renato Bico, 47, said he and his family would be meeting the New Year lying on flattened carton boxes under a military tent or talking about how they would rebuild their lives.

On Monday night, a six-hour fire razed the homes of 900 families along 2nd Avenue and killed three persons. The victims lost most of their belongings.

"I wanted to cook something but we lost our stove in the fire. We also don't have anything to cook," Bico's wife Rosalina, 51, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Yet they are not giving up.

"We have accepted our fate. We know we can make it through. The Lord will not abandon us," Bico said.

And even though the flames had taken away all that they had, it left their sense of humor intact.

Yesterday, Rosalinda laughed as she kidded her husband for not having any underwear.

"The relief goods did not include underwear," Rosalinda said, laughing.

As she laughed, women around her chatted, children cried and men exchanged stories about how they survived the fire.

In one corner, a little girl blew a plastic *torotot* (horn), probably signaling to everyone the dawning of a New Year that carried with it all the hope that they had.

Meanwhile, at least 10 other families welcomed the new year homeless after an hour-long fire razed their houses in Manila yesterday morning.

The blaze began at the house of Juanito Palad along Interior Sevilla in Binondo, at 6:18 a.m.

In Antipolo City, hundreds of vendors were displaced when a fire suspected to have been caused by firecrackers struck the Antipolo public market the other night.

The whole second floor of the market building on M.L. Quezon Street, Barangay San Roque, was gutted.

The fire that started at the fruit section at 11:45 p.m. prompted the evacuation of 700 inmates at the nearby Antipolo City Jail complex.

METROBRIEFS

Dead over bet

NOEL Vivas, 40, of Eloriaga Extension in Sta. Ana, Manila, was reportedly gunned down in a fight over bet money at a billiards game on Tuesday night. SP02 Virgo Villareal said Vivas was playing billiards with several men at the Shous Billiards and Gym along Eloriaga Street when the two groups had a fight. Villareal said the players raised bets but had a misunderstanding at about 10:30 p.m. A fight broke out during which two opponents of Vivas pulled out a .45-caliber and a 9-mm pistol and shot Vivas, who sustained 10 gunshot wounds, three on the head. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Robbers killed

THREE alleged members of a notorious robbery syndicate were killed in an ambush Tuesday night in Quezon City. Jaime Joseph Almazan, 27, his brother Julius, 32, and Marcos Dangalan, 26, alleged members of Boltcutter Gang, which allegedly preyed on several establishments in the city, were slain while they were on board an FX taxi along Calamba corner Isarog Streets, Barangay Salvacion, La Loma. The suspects have yet to be identified. *Tina Santos*

Burglar shot dead

THE POLICE gunned down at dawn yesterday Ronaldo Torres, whom they caught allegedly breaking into an parked Toyota Corolla at the corner of the Exchange Road and San Miguel Avenue at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The police said Torres, who had just been released from the National Bilibid Prisons where he was locked up for drug charges, was trying to open the car (PSA 301) with a kitchen knife at 3 a.m. when patrolling lawmen spotted him. When confronted, Torres allegedly pulled out a .22-caliber pistol and fired on the policemen, who were prompted to fire back. The suspect died from a gunshot wound in the head. Aside from the handgun, the police recovered from Torres various IDs, SIM cards, a mobile phone and a certificate of discharge from the NBP. *Luige del Puerto*

Firecracker injuries breach 200 mark

By Blanche S. Rivera

CONCERNED about the increase in injuries during the New Year's Eve celebration, the Department of Health could only hope that the cases this year would not surpass those of last year's.

This developed as Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit announced that the injuries due to firecrackers and stray bullets have reached 200 as of 7 a.m. yesterday, almost 40 percent higher than the 122 during the same period last year.

Dayrit attributed the increase in injuries to the proliferation of "low quality, cheap firecrackers." He said that the retail sale of firecrackers was also a factor.

"Our goal is not to breach the 531 cases we had last year," the health chief said in a press conference yesterday before making the rounds of hospitals in Metro Manila.

Dayrit urged all who had suffered even minor injuries to immediately get anti-tetanus shots to make sure they do not get infected.

He said victims should immediately wash or clean firecracker wounds. But he cautioned against using alcohol on open wounds and suggested Betadine.

Of the 200 cases, 4 were due to stray bullets and 6 due to watusi. There were no deaths.

Records show that there were 1,632 cases in 1999; 1,369 in 2000; 627 in 2001 and 531 in 2002.

YOUNG REVELERS
Children in Malabon take delight in welcoming 2004 by lighting sparklers. In many parts of the country, however, people still relied on firecrackers to celebrate the New Year. ERIK ARAZAS

WPD keeps alert up vs explosives

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE FIREWORKS may be over, but the Western Police District would continue to be on alert for explosives, although of the more dangerous kind.

WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said his operatives are monitoring the Binondo-Divisoria area, following unconfirmed reports that terrorist groups plan to attack the area.

The Divisoria area is informally known as Manila's shopping district because it teems with all kinds of lower-priced items for sale. The Binondo area, on the other hand, is home to a large Filipino-Chinese community.

The unconfirmed reports, which were circulated to police officials through a Dec. 29 memo signed by WPD operations head Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, ordered an intensified intelligence work to prevent terror attacks.

It also stressed that checkpoints and chokepoints should be implemented "to deter the movement/transport of explosive materials in the metro area. Particular attention on Binondo-Divisoria area is enjoined."

Interviewed yesterday, Bulaong said beat patrol, mobile and Special Weapons and Tactics operatives are already keeping tabs on the city and would even continue the monitoring after Jan. 1.

Checkpoints would remain in place, he added.

"We never stop the deployment of operatives even when the holidays are over. But we will assign more operatives where needed," he said.

He also said that no explosives have been seized in Manila since the reports were circulated.

MAYOR Binay (right) with former Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino at the Makati Comelec office. EDWIN BACASMAS

Binay leads Makati united opposition

By Margaux Ortiz

"THERE is unity in diversity."

Thus said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay as he led the city's "United Opposition" in filing certificates of candidacy at the local Commission on Election (Comelec) office yesterday.

The mayor filed his certificate along with Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, re-electionist Congressmen Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. of the first district and LDP's Agapito "Butz" Aquino of the second district, and 16 candidates for the city council.

Binay, the mayoral bet of the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino (PDP)-Laban, said the Makati ticket includes candidates from different political parties like Liberal Party, Nacionalista Party, National People's Coalition, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Binay also aired his unwavering support for Fernando Poe Jr.'s presidential candidacy, while Aquino is a staunch supporter of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

"What is important is that we have a common enemy," Binay stressed, referring to the Lakas Christian Muslim Democrats party of President Arroyo.

Aquino agreed with Binay that the members of the Makati ticket will support the opposition.

Statesmanlike gesture

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

IT WAS statesmanlike of anti-kidnap czar Angelo Reyes to give up his plan to run for senator so he could concentrate in eliminating the kidnap gangs in the country.

Reyes would have been a sure winner in the senatorial race.

But he gave in to the clamor of the Chinese community to remain as head of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

Don't worry, Angie, the voters won't forget you in 2007. By then, you can already run for senator and voters will make you No. 1 in their list of senatorial candidates.

* * *

If Castro becomes our Vice President, he will have to learn to speak English because that's the international language.

He should not be another Erap, whose excuse for being inarticulate in English was that the prime minister of Japan didn't know how to speak English.

Our national officials are expected to be bilingual, articulate in both English and Tagalog.

* * *

To the owners of ABS-CBN: Please don't engage in politicking by making De Castro remain host of the popular tele-magazine, "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

The moment Noli files his certificate of candidacy, he should be told to give up hosting MGB.

It's not only unfair to the other candidates because Noli will have much more exposure than they. It's also the height of unethical behavior on the part of the Lopezes.

* * *

Hope springs eternal for Filipinos, according to the Social Weather Stations.

Ninety percent of Filipinos think that 2004 will be a better year for them.

There is nothing the Filipino has but hope. The Filipino is an optimist.

* * *

His optimism carried the Filipino through the dark era of martial law.

The Filipino is not only an optimist, he is phlegmatic. No trouble can faze him. He knows how to roll with the punches.

That's why it took the Filipinos to stand up to the Marcos dictatorship through Edsa 1.

* * *

Here's food for thought for 2004: If you desire to have more money, make others have money.

In short, share your fortune.

People who are generous become more blessed with anything they choose to have, while those who are selfish become more miserable.

Abalos turns eye on Congress slot

MANDALUYONG CITY Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. kept his end of the gentlemen's agreement he made with City Rep. Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales II by seeking a congressional seat.

Abalos filed his certificate of candidacy for congressman at the Commission on Elections office in Intramuros on Tuesday.

In a statement, Abalos said he is content that he is leaving his constituents with sound economic, financial and educational foundations.

Earlier, Abalos said he would not seek a third term as mayor to give way to Gonzales, a longtime friend. *Luige del Puerto*

max mababa ⓖ
RELOAD HERE
GLOBE AUTOLOAD MAX
fountain....P300
roman candles....P270
globe autoload....P50

GLOBE AUTOLOAD MAX
loaded MAXki saan

may P50 na!

It's so easy to reload over your phone!

1. Look for the AutoloadMAX sign.
2. Give your Globe Prepaid number to the retailer.
3. Choose your denomination.
4. Wait for the text advisory.

Denomination	Load expiry	Account expiry
P50	5 days	30 days
P100	15 days	60 days

making great things possible **Globe** HANDYPHONE

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL NBA Greatest Game - 1972 All - Star Game; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports - Travel back in time and witness the gathering of the NBA's elite players in the mid-season classic during the time of disco and afros

NBA - Sixers vs Rockets; 11 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.); Solar Sports; Warriors vs Nets, 7 p.m.; IBC 13 - Philadelphia goes deep in the heart of Texas to face Houston while vastly - improved Golden State takes on New Jersey

TENNIS 2003 Stockholm Open; 3 30 p.m.; Solar Sports - Catch the finals from Sweden

Borg vs Ashe, 8 30 p.m.; Star Sports - Witness this memorable match-up between tennis greats Bjorn Borg and Arthur Ashe

POOL World Pool Championship 2003, 6 p.m. and 8 30 p.m. (r); ESPN - Rewind and see the best cue artists in action from Cardiff.

Freddie Roach quits as Pacquiao's trainer

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

THE MAN widely credited for Manny Pacquiao's newfound success and who lobbied so hard so the Filipino fighter won't be deceived financially will no longer be in his corner.

Top Trainer of the Year candidate Freddie Roach announced in an interview yesterday with boxing website Boxingtalk that he is quitting as Manny Pacquiao's trainer following the Filipino camp's decision to stick it out with US agent Murad Muhammad for one more year.

"Yes. And there's no doubt about it, that's what's going to keep on happening until he (Pacquiao) decides to do something about it. If we could get an accountant involved to look at all of Manny's fights under Murad Muhammad, you'll find a lot of money missing," Roach told Boxingtalk's Greg Leon in an interview when asked if he would no longer be training Pacquiao if the latter continued to allow himself to be robbed blind.

Roach revealed that Pacquiao had already approached him for help after the Filipino saw that his purse was $700,000 and not $350,000 when he signed the contract after the weigh-in right before the fight with Mexican great Marco Antonio Barrera last November.

"He asked me if I would be his manager and take care of his business for him to make sure they don't steal his money from him. I did all of that, I wasn't getting paid to do it and I wasn't asking for anything," Roach said.

He added: "I just wanted to see this kid have a good life and end up wealthy. I don't want to see him broke. With these people stealing the money that they're stealing....I mean, they're not just taking a little bit of money, they're taking a big chunk of it."

Roach said Pacquiao should not have agreed to

FREDDIE/ A19

Pacers spoil LeBron's party A18

WIND Blown: Horse of the Year again.

PDI PHOTO

Wind Blown is No. 1 galloper for 3rd time

A CHAMPION galloper well loved by the *bayang karerista* and the association overseeing the multibillion horse racing industry join the honor roll of sports achievers to be cited by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) during its Annual Awards Night on Jan. 9 at the Manila Pavilion.

A hands-down-choice for the Horse of the Year award is Wind Blown, an outstanding runner retired to stud a few weeks ago to end what went down as one of local horse racing's most successful and widely followed careers.

To most racing fans, no other horse has captured the imagination of the *bayang karerista* than this pride and joy of noted sportsman Hermie Esguerra.

In five years, Wind Blown won close to P19 million in prizes, the most by any local horse. It was the third time that the son of Hazm and Wind In My Hair had won the award.

In 2001, the year he strung up a long line of victories that included an amazing conquest of the prestigious Presidential Gold Cup, Wind Blown was also the unanimous choice for the honor.

In recognition of another banner year that saw Wind Blown post an unbeaten run in stakes races dating back to 2001, the sportswriting fraternity also bestowed on him the Horse of the Year award in 2002.

The Philippine Racing Commission under Chair Jaime C. Dilag as well as jockey Pat Dilema will also be cited during the two-hour rites sponsored by Red Bull and Agfa Colors and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, POC, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, PBA and San Miguel Corp.

Under the stewardship of Dilag and commissioners Eddie Jose, Vergel Cruz and Eduar-

WIND/ A19

FREE Jolly HANDY BAG
for every P400 delivery purchase
also available in black
(Contents not included)
DIAL 8-7000
Jollibee Delivery
Promo Period: Jan. 1-Feb.15,2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3753 Series of 2003

Hindi ito basta-basta bibigay, tol!
Islander
Kapal ng orig, tibay ng orig!

POC lauds Arroyo for SEAG support; athletes also hailed

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit has lauded First Gentleman Mike Arroyo for his "timely and significant" fund-raising effort that boosted the country's campaign in the recent Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

In a year-end statement, Dayrit said the POC appreciated Mr. Arroyo's gesture of tapping private corporations which raised P24 million that augmented the training fund of the national athletes, who went on to win 48 golds medals and lifted the country to fourth overall in the SEAG.

The POC chief also hailed the athletes particularly those in chess, wushu, boxing and billiards for their victories abroad this year, and IBF superbantamweight champ Manny Pacquiao.

Dayrit even congratulated his critics—Monico Puentevella of weightlifting, Buddy Andrada of tennis and Go Teng Kok of athletics—among others, who have made it big in their respective international federations this year.

But he had harsh words for the Philippine Sports Commission, which, he said, questioned and challenged the POC's positions on several issues this year, including the composition of the SEAG delegation and its marketing thrust.

Dayrit also hit the PSC for its "preference to hold its mass-based programs such as the BIMP-EAGA Games, the Mindanao Friendship Games and the Palarong Pambansa" while being "indifferent" to the concerns of the national sports associations.

The POC also proposed "specific corrective measures" for the government to follow starting next year.

Among them is the creation of the controversial National Sports Advisory Council aimed at selecting the PSC chair and commissioners plus an "oversight" committee which will review the PSC projects and programs.

Dayrit also wanted to integrate the school-based Palaro and the youth-oriented Batang Pinoy into one National Youth Games and discontinue "irrelevant programs" such as the Mindanao Friendship Games and BIMP-EAGA Games.

But sports and political leaders from Mindanao, led by Lanao del Norte Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, have posed strong objections to Dayrit's proposal to scrap the two big Mindanao meets, saying they can be held without government funding.

Dayrit likewise proposed to cancel outright the planned Luzon Games, Visayas Games and the Philippine National Open Championships.

SPORTSWATCH

Las Piñas derby slated

THE "Grand Opening 4-Cock Derby" starts early at 4 p.m. on Saturday (Jan. 3) at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Cockpit. More than 80 fights are scheduled in the meet. Derby host Mayor Nene Aguilar is donating part of the derby's proceeds to Las Piñas City's Clean and Green projects. A cash prize of P500,000 plus refrigerators await the champions. Entry fee is P11,000. Submission of weights is on Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Interested parties may contact 873-1040. Meanwhile, pit manager Alex Tobias announced that hackfights at LPC are now scheduled from Monday to Sunday to accommodate the big number of participants.

Dakar Rally all set

PARIS—The Dakar Rally, an 11,000-kilometer race in cars, motorbikes and trucks through Europe and West Africa, has reverted to a more classic route for its 2004 edition. The vehicles will begin their 17-stage adventure in Clermont Ferrand, France on Thursday before going through Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso and finishing in Dakar, Senegal on Jan. 18. Confusingly, the final destination of the 2003 race was Egypt rather than the capital of Senegal but race director Patrick Zanirolli, who replaced Hubert Auriol who had been in charge since 1995, created a more traditional course this time. *AFP*

Akebono vs Sapp

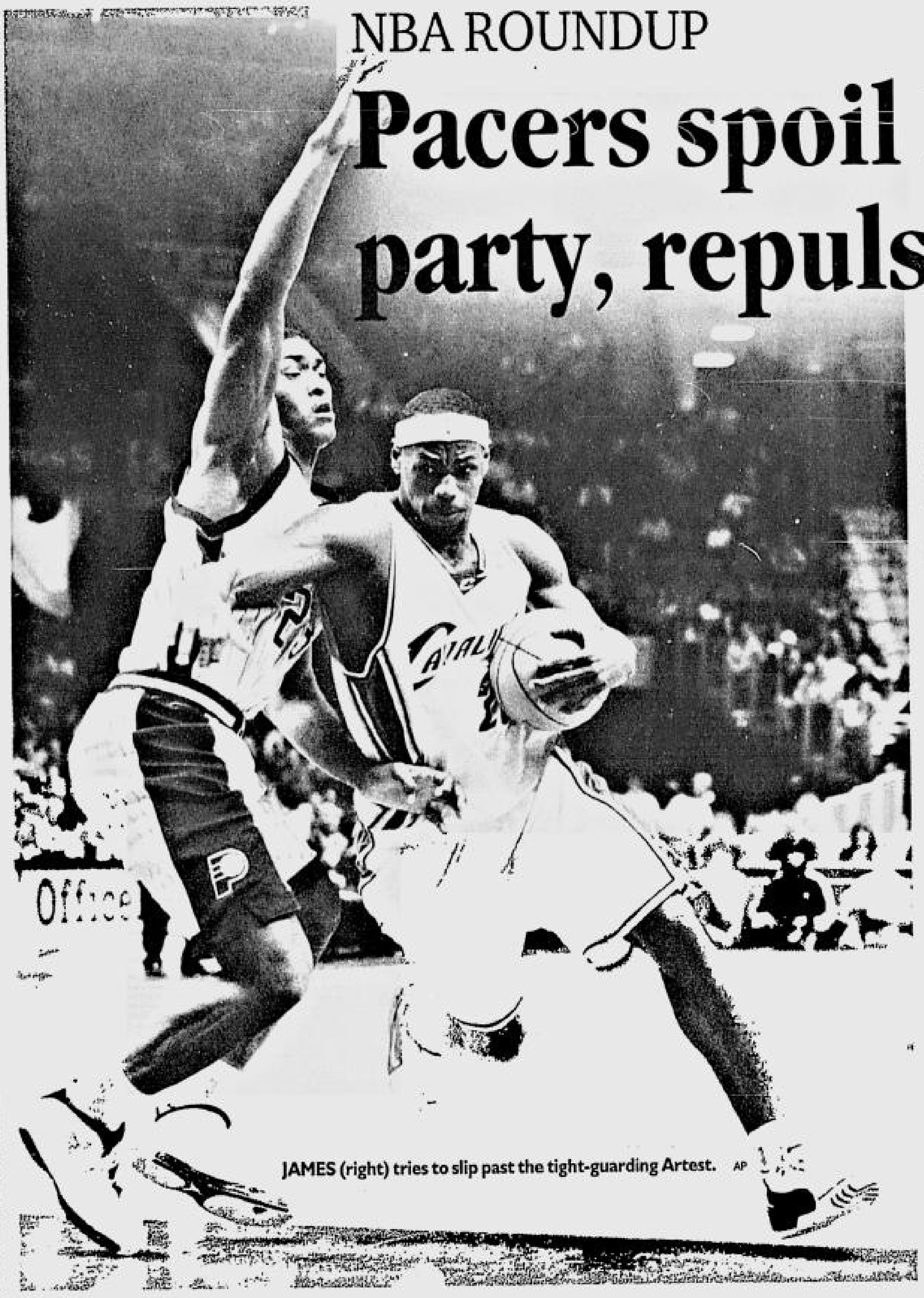
TOKYO—Former sumo grand champion Akebono was preparing to re-enter the ring Wednesday for the first time since hanging up his padded loincloth in 2001. This time, it will be no shoving match: He'll be trading blows with former NFL lineman Bob Sapp in Japan's brutal K-1 sport. The 34-year-old Hawaii native, who has grown a goatee and dyed blonde his tight mass of curls since quitting the sumo world in November, said he would crush Sapp during their three-round headliner bout at Nagoya Dome. "Taking what I learned from sumo, I'll proudly meet him in the ring and take him down," Akebono told reporters late Tuesday at a hotel in Nagoya, about 269 kilometers (168 miles) west of Tokyo. *AP*

Athletes fail drug test

SAN FRANCISCO—Capping a year of sports drug scandals, the US Olympic Committee announced that sprint champion Kelli White and six other American athletes tested positive for banned substances. White and five other track and field athletes tested positive for the banned stimulant modafinil. Hammer thrower John McEwen tested positive for modafinil and the newly discovered steroid THG. *AP*

NBA ROUNDUP

Pacers spoil LeBron party, repulse Cavs


JAMES (right) tries to slip past the tight-guarding Artest. AP

CLEVELAND—LeBron James had the wrong guys show up for his party.

Jermaine O'Neal scored 21 points and Ron Artest hit a crucial 3-pointer in the final minute as the Indiana Pacers wrecked James' 19th birthday Tuesday night with a 92-89 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Artest scored 18 points, none bigger than his 3 with 54.6 seconds left, as the Pacers improved to 23-10— the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference.

James finished with 22 points, 10 rebounds and four assists in 38 minutes but the Cavaliers' rookie guard couldn't shake free and take over in the closing minutes with Artest playing belly-to-belly defense on him. James, who came in averaging 27.8 points in his last 10 games, finished 9-of-20 from the floor and missed all four of his 3-pointers.

In Washington, Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 25 points and 16 rebounds to help the Atlanta Hawks end a nine-game road losing streak with an 83-73 win over Washington.

Stephen Jackson scored 16 points, Jason Terry added 13 and Dion Glover 10 for the Hawks, who hadn't won on the road since beating Milwaukee, 101-93, on Nov. 18.

Larry Hughes had 24 points for the Wizards, who have lost five in a row.

The Wizards, who tied a franchise record for fewest wins in December with two, managed only two field goals and a goaltending bucket from the field in the final quarter, in which they shot 3-for-17.

In New York, Keith Van Horn had a steal and buzzer-beating dunk to cap a dominant first quarter, and the New York Knicks — after making a trade—cruised past the Miami Heat, 102-73.

The Knicks won their fourth in a row, with all the victories coming in convincing fashion, for their first four-game winning streak in 23 months. The last three victories have all been by at least 20 points, the first time New York has done that since November 1997.

Van Horn scored 22 points, shooting 10-for-16 from the field in breaking 20 for the fifth time in six games. Shandon Anderson came off the bench to add 21.

Before the game, the Knicks acquired point guard Moochie Norris and center John Amaechi from Houston for Clarence Weatherspoon.

Lamar Odom led Miami with 19 points.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 15 rebounds to lead Minnesota past Chicago, 98-93, as the Wolves posted their eighth victory in nine games.

Latrell Sprewell had 27 points—20 in the first half— and Sam Cassell had 21 points and nine assists for Minnesota, which beat the Bulls for the 10th straight time.

The Timberwolves held on despite blowing a 20-point first-half lead and missing nine free throws in the fourth quarter. *AP*

Happiness

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

EVERYTHING new is supposed to be good. A new car. A new dwelling. A new child. And yes, a new year.

Today being the first day of the year should make us upbeat. It's because today is one of the most special days of the year as it kicks off everything that we intend—or do not intend—to do this year.

Abet Guidaben, one of the country's finest basketball players ever, has said: "If you want to be a champion this year, start training on the first day of the year—even if the championship you are targeting is not up for grabs until December."

If you do not intend to achieve something good, something big, this year, start the job by sleeping the day away today.

To quote one sage, a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step.

You want to become president of the Philippines, run.

Why does a French man kiss the hand of a lady when he gets introduced to her?

One has got to start somewhere.

One not wanting to embark on a meaningful mission this year, doze off today.

Is buying a lotto ticket a giant move in a bid to make it big for you this year?

Maybe. Dreamers dream in different ways. I believe in that, just like in the line, "Different folks, different strokes." My folks loved *pinakbet* but not the folks of Quintin Balajadia, my legman-in-waiting.

We all dream, why not. But there are dreamers who just dream; not much action from them to achieve their dream. Mostly, they are of the folk who play *jueteng* or buy lotto tickets in the hope of achieving their dream to become rich using a minimum of effort.

To be sure, though, to become rich does not mean one has succeeded in life, or has achieved one's dream.

Like Van Gogh, Danny Dalena is also a successful painter but, like Van Gogh up to the time of his death, Dalena hasn't become rich. N'yet, anyway.

People like Van Gogh and Dalena dream of mainly achieving fulfillment with their works. That's the tragedy of artists? Maybe. But who can question the happiness of a person?

One can be happy just having millions of pesos. My late aunt was an example. She had millions of pesos, more than enough to shoulder 10 trips around the world for her and her hubby. But she died without having had one; she was happy keeping her millions rather than spending them. I believe she died happy.

It is normal for athletes to want to become rich, especially those who believe they have the tools to do it. But would you say it is abnormal for one having earned a fortune not to live the life of a king/queen?

Happiness, my friend, is relative.

One can be happy eating in a *turo-turo* even if he/she can afford dining at posh restaurants. One can be happy riding in jeepneys even if he/she can afford buying either a Toyota Land Cruiser or a Volvo, or even a Rolls Royce maybe.

Is it rather odd that some rich kids still want to go to body-banging sports? What drives them?

One example is Bill Cartwright, Michael Jordan's teammate in the Chicago Bulls. Bill's father is a beer tycoon. Still, Cartwright took the rigors of an athlete's Spartan life; he succeeded, soon becoming a cog in the Chicago NBA dynasty in the Nineties.

Living in comfort is one thing, how to enjoy it is another. Some, like my late aunt described above, enjoy it more by keeping that fortune rather than spending it.

One's enjoyment differs much from another's belief of enjoyment.

One enjoys watching an unpicked rose that is in bloom. Another enjoys picking that rose and putting it in a vase.

One loves hating the ending of a year; age has something to do with it. Another loves bidding goodbye to the fading year; that's aging gracefully.

Happy New Year!

***

FASTBREAK. I wish Judge Rosario Cruz would hand down a decision soon regarding the six-year-old case filed by Espinosa against Larry de Pedro, Rod Nazario and Lito Mondejar. The case stemmed from Espinosa's unclaimed purse of nearly $150,000 in that classic Espinosa-Rios fight in Koronadal in December 1997. Espinosa, who beat the Argentinian by knockout, now lives in San Francisco, subsisting mainly on jobs that do not pay well. Win or lose in the sala of Judge Cruz, Espinosa, a former world champion in two weight divisions, said he'd devote his time next to training kids with dreams of becoming world champions. Your Honor, if I may ask: What's stopping you from issuing a decision now?

Weatherspoon goes to Houston

NEW YORK—Reserve forward Clarence Weatherspoon was traded from the New York Knicks to the Houston Rockets for point guard Moochie Norris and center John Amaechi.

Tuesday's trade was the first engineered by Isiah Thomas, coming just eight days after he took over for fired Knicks team president Scott Layden.

The Knicks had been in buyout talks with Weatherspoon, who is signed for two more seasons for $12.2 million. Instead, Thomas found a trading partner in the Rockets who have been in need of frontcourt depth ever since they suspended and then released forward Eddie Griffin. *AP*

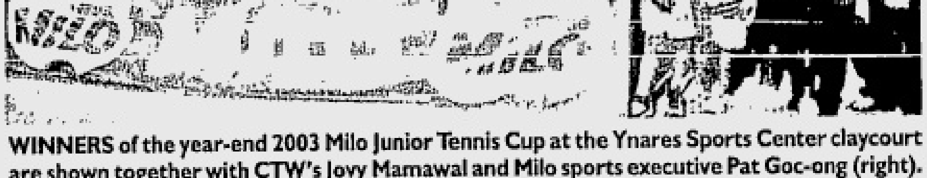
De Dios cops 18-under crown

NICO Riego de Dios of Olongapo City whipped Janjie Soquino of Cebu, 6-0, 6-4, to bag the boys' 18-under division yesterday at the close of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Ynares Sports Center in Pasig City.

Riego de Dios shared the limelight with Ralph Barte in the boys' 16-under; El Santos in the boys' 4-under, Kim Saraza in the boys' 12-under; Ace Matias in the unisex 10-under; Bien Zoleta in the girls' 18-under; Jessica Agra in the girls' 16-under; Trudy Amoranto in the girls' 14-under; Sara Jane Lim in the girls' 12-under categories.

Barte edged Raymund Villarete, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Santos whipped Johnwill Baldonado, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; Saraza downed Akio Sy, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; Matias defeated Jose Lorenzo Ferrer, 6-2, 6-4; Zoleta nipped Ivy de Castro, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Agra turned back Nikki Manalo, 6-2, 6-3; Amoranto demolished Manalo, 6-2, 6-2; and Lim routed Zhane Quitara, 6-1, 6-1.

On hand to award the Milo trophy and medals in the year-ender Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and NBN-4 Sunday TV show Sports Kids with Philta sanction was sports manager Pat Goc-ong.



WINNERS of the year-end 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Ynares Sports Center claycourt are shown together with CTW's Jovy Mamawal and Milo sports executive Pat Goc-ong (right). The Milo netfest was supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids with Philta sanction.

JAN. 5-6

RP's top junior golfers collide in Midlands tilt

THE COUNTRY's top jungolfers strut their wares in the inaugural Philippines-Japan Friendship tournament on Jan. 5-6 at the picturesque Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club.

Aside from the challenge posed by their Japanese counterparts coming all the way from Fukuoka, local jungolfers will size up the opposition for what is shaping up to be a long, exciting year.

The streaking Nonoy Negrido seeks to continue his unbeaten run of four straight victories since winning the Fil-Am individual title, Jayvie Agojo resumes her buildup for the coming Philippine Ladies Open and ex-world champ Dottie Ardina returns after a long absence.

The 36-hole tourney capping the holiday break series of the Samsung Jungolf Tour is sponsored by Tagaytay Midlands, Comworks, Milkjoy and La Jolla Golf.

The Philippine entries:

Class A: Boys—Miko Alejandro, Justin Tambunting, Nonoy Negrido, Gio dela Paz, Aaron Dimabuyu, Ian Ray Intal, Thomas Ngo, Allan Minoza, TerenceMacatangay, Marlo Capinianes, Gino Bunyi, Gerald Arriola, Aran Olea, Johann See, Charles Hong; Girls- Jayvie Agojo, Matet Salivio, Remijin Camping, Katrina Gonzales, Linnel de Villa, Geleen Handog.

Class B—Boys Ton-Ton Asistio, IG Gutierrez, Miko Yee, Qroni Baterna, Junro Mamaril, Allan Guy, Mikee Camitoc, Jordan Mamaril, Adrian Woo; Girls – Debbie de Villa.

Class C—Lawrence Celestino, Luis Sumabat, Jik-Jik Abdon, Jan Jan Ybanes, Miguel Arevalo, Wolen Superal; Girls –Crystal Superal, Cyna Rodriguez, Beverly Mendoza.

Special division – James Ricohermoso, Don Martin Fernandez, JR Gonzales, JP de Claro, AR Ramos; Girls- Dottie Ardina, Katya dela Cruz, Christina Potenciano, Ma-an Legaspi, Andie Unson, Mia Piccio.

The Japan contingent is arriving on Sunday, Jan. 4, and will be billeted at the Tagaytay Highlands.

The leadership of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines headed by its chair Amalia Montecillo and president Gerry Handog said that the RP-Japan series is one of at least three international events they are to stage in 2004.

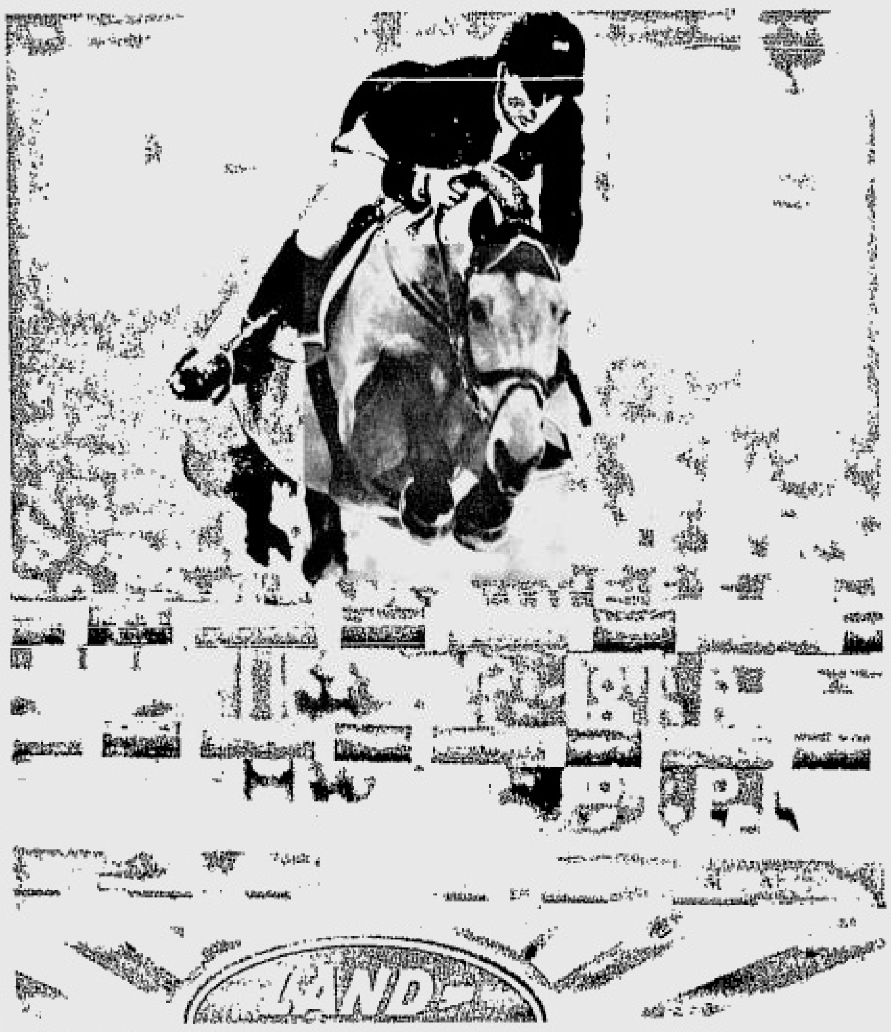
Wind Blown is No. 1 . . .

From page A17

do Domingo Jr., the government agency tasked to look after the rich horse racing industry reached its projected target of an all-time record of P7.5 billion.

Dilema was named the best jockey for the second time in three years, edging another outstanding rider, Jeffril Zarate.

Dilema registered 187 wins in 822 starts and posted more than P40 million in money winnings in 11 months, a big chunk of which coming through victories aboard stakes winners like Ariba King, Material Maker and War Hero.



JUMPING CHAMP

Swede Rolf Goran Bengtsson rides his horse Mac Kinley on his way to win the Flanders FEI World Cup Jumping Grand Prix, Tuesday, in Mechelen. AFP

Freddie Roach quits . . .

From page A17

challenge Juan Manuel Marquez, the WBA and IBF featherweight champion sometime in March next year, for a purse of only $1,000,000.

"That fight's worth much more than $1,000,000," Roach said.

"It's going to be the toughest fight out there for him style-wise. The guy is fighting another featherweight champion. But Manny is the one everybody knows, so why fight Marquez when he could fight anybody out there? He could get $1,500,000 to fight Paulie Ayala or Johnny Tapia, but instead they chose to fight Marquez for a million. To me there's something fishy about that," he explained.

Roach also expressed disappointment over the manner he had been compensated in Pacquiao's four fights in the United States. The renowned trainer revealed that for the Barrera fight, he only got $25,000 and $6,000 for the Lucero fight.

"So it's not just Manny they're stealing from. They're stealing from me and anybody else who gets a percentage," Roach said.

"Now (Pacquiao business manager Rod) Nazario tells me Manny made $500,000 instead of the $300,000. So, I'm asking him, if that's the case why didn't I receive $50,000? Where's my other $25,000? And I told Mr. Nazario that I couldn't be with you guys anymore, because somebody is stealing all of the money and nobody's being honest about where the money is going," he added.

Pacquiao's actual purse of $700,000 in his fight against Barrera was inadvertently divulged by two HBO announcers during the fight. Nazario later admitted the amount was correct, but said half of it was spent for Pacquiao's training expenses.

Roach suspects that someone is trying to keep Pacquiao silent in the wake of these manipulations.

"Manny is being pressured to keep everything smooth. They called me today and told me they don't want to break the team up. And right now when they're stealing money from Manny, they're stealing money from me," Roach added.

Iraq joining boxing elims

By Dennis U. Eroa

IN AN unprecedented move, Iraq, a country in the process of rebuilding following a devastating war, confirmed its attendance in the 22nd Asian Boxing First Olympic qualifying slated on Jan. 10-18 at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum.

Abap President Manny Lopez welcomed Iraq's entry to the blockbuster event which features Asia's leading amateur boxers, who will vie for 24 berths for the 2004 Athens Olympics.

"Indeed, sports is a bridge toward normalcy, friendship and future cooperation among the various countries in the world. In behalf of the organizers and Abap, I would like to welcome the Iraqi national boxing team in the qualifying," said Lopez.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn said just like the rest of competitors from not less than 25 countries, Iraq will be treated to the Filipinos' well-known brand of hospitality.

"The entry of Iraq adds to the excitement of the tournament which we are proud to host," said Gov. Reyes and Mayor Hagedorn. "Palawan and Puerto Princesa is more inspired to make the event a resounding success in order to help in the promotion of goodwill among the competitors."

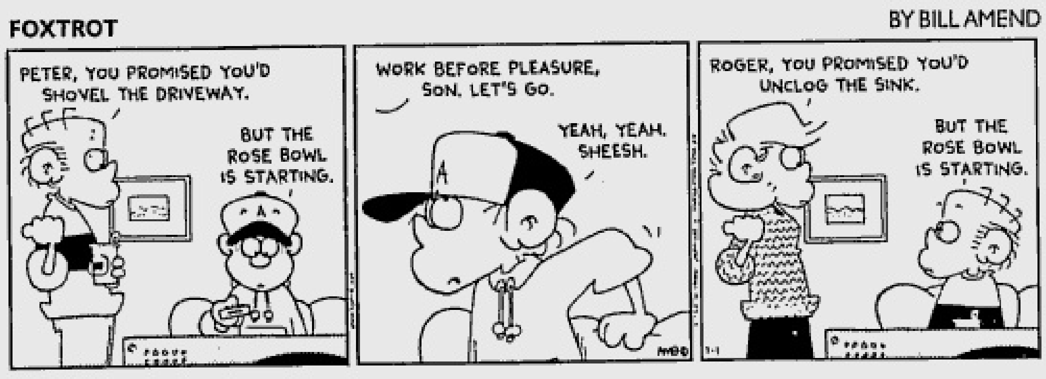
Comprising the Iraq delegation are Najah Salah, Majid Gaitan, Jassim Meshali, Imad Saeed, Wisam Intisar, Zuhair Kudhair, Fajah Hassan, Ahmed Khalil and Mohd Ghalib plus an international referee, interpreters and officials of the Iraqi Boxing Federation.

Also confirming their stint are the national teams of Iran, Pakistan and the two Koreas.

cosmopolitan
ÉLAN
Enlightening articles done in style. The kind you expect from your favorite magazine.
Get your fix every second and fourth Saturdays with your
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

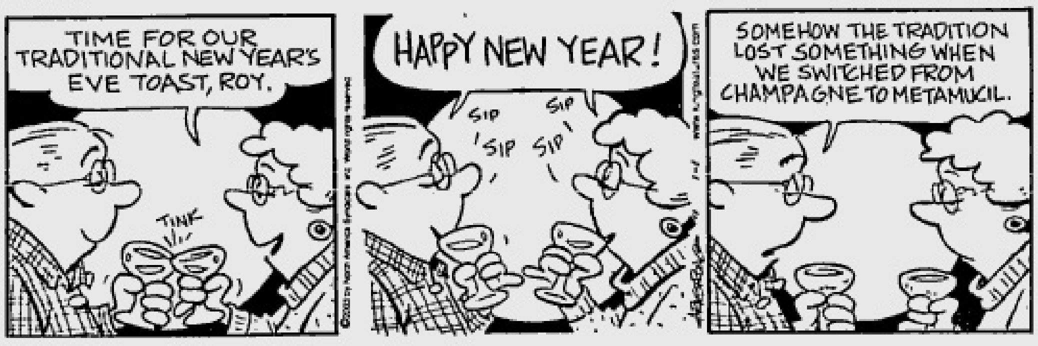
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, YOU PROMISED YOU'D SHOVEL THE DRIVEWAY.
BUT THE ROSE BOWL IS STARTING.
WORK BEFORE PLEASURE, SON. LET'S GO.
YEAH, YEAH. SHEESH.
ROGER, YOU PROMISED YOU'D UNCLOG THE SINK.
BUT THE ROSE BOWL IS STARTING.

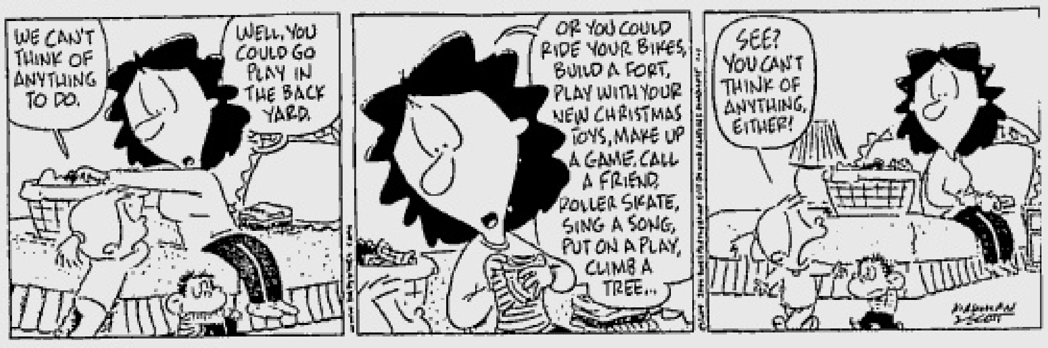
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TIME FOR OUR TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S EVE TOAST, ROY.
TINK
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SIP SIP SIP SIP
SOMEHOW THE TRADITION LOST SOMETHING WHEN WE SWITCHED FROM CHAMPAGNE TO METAMUCIL.

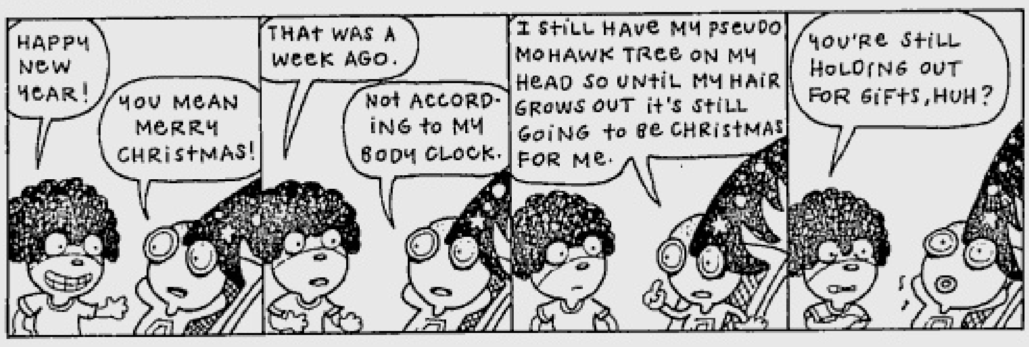
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WE CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DO.
WELL, YOU COULD GO PLAY IN THE BACK YARD.
OR YOU COULD RIDE YOUR BIKES, BUILD A FORT, PLAY WITH YOUR NEW CHRISTMAS TOYS, MAKE UP A GAME, CALL A FRIEND, ROLLER SKATE, SING A SONG, PUT ON A PLAY, CLIMB A TREE...
SEE? YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING, EITHER!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YOU MEAN MERRY CHRISTMAS!
THAT WAS A WEEK AGO.
NOT ACCORDING TO MY BODY CLOCK.
I STILL HAVE MY PSEUDO MOHAWK TREE ON MY HEAD SO UNTIL MY HAIR GROWS OUT IT'S STILL GOING TO BE CHRISTMAS FOR ME.
YOU'RE STILL HOLDING OUT FOR GIFTS, HUH?

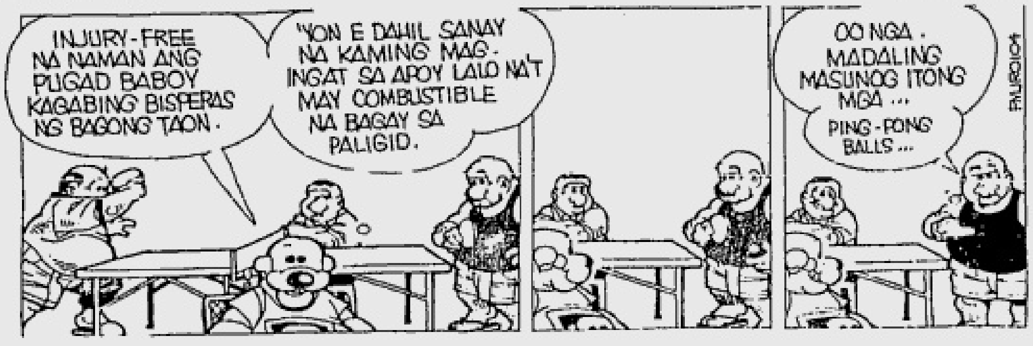
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

Manigong BAGONG TAON!

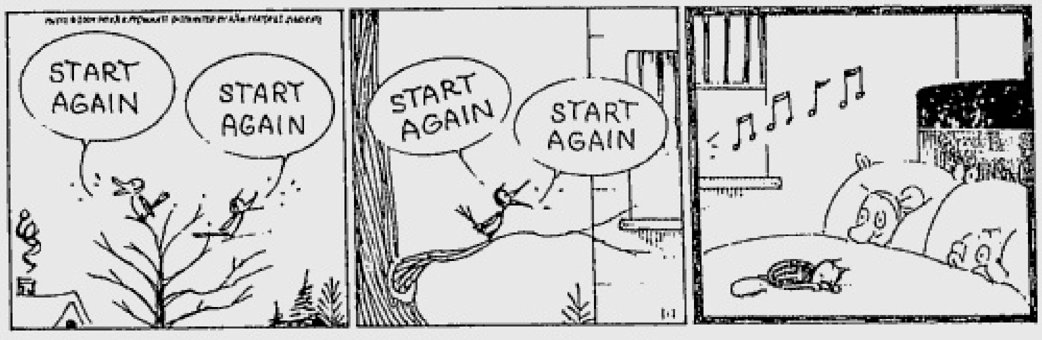
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


INJURY-FREE NA NAMAN ANG PUGAD BABOY KAGABING BISPERAS NG BAGONG TAON.
'YON E DAHIL SANAY NA KAMING MAG-INGAT SA APOY LALO NA'T MAY COMBUSTIBLE NA BAGAY SA PALIGID.
OO NGA. MADALING MASUNOG ITONG MGA ...
PING-PONG BALLS ...

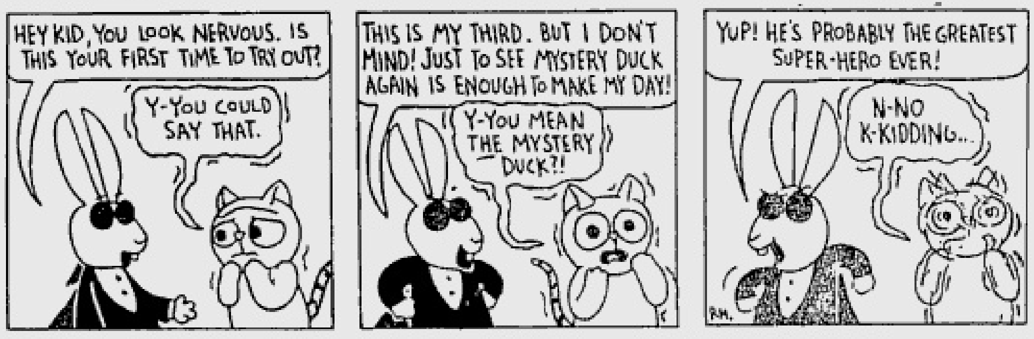
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


START AGAIN
START AGAIN
START AGAIN
START AGAIN

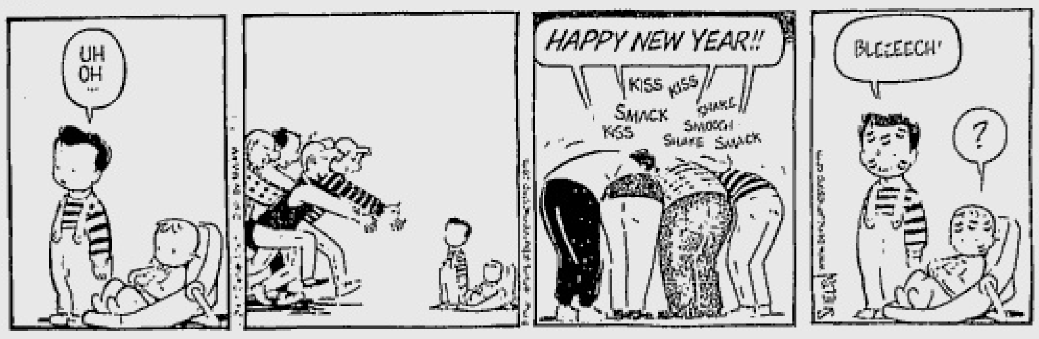
SHIRLEY'S PETS

BY ROBERT MAGNUSON


HEY KID, YOU LOOK NERVOUS. IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TO TRY OUT?
Y-YOU COULD SAY THAT.
THIS IS MY THIRD. BUT I DON'T MIND! JUST TO SEE MYSTERY DUCK AGAIN IS ENOUGH TO MAKE MY DAY!
Y-YOU MEAN THE MYSTERY DUCK?!
YUP! HE'S PROBABLY THE GREATEST SUPER-HERO EVER!
N-NO K-KIDDING...

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


UH OH ...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
KISS KISS
SMACK
KISS
SHAKE
SMOOCH
SHAKE SMACK
BLEEEECH!
?

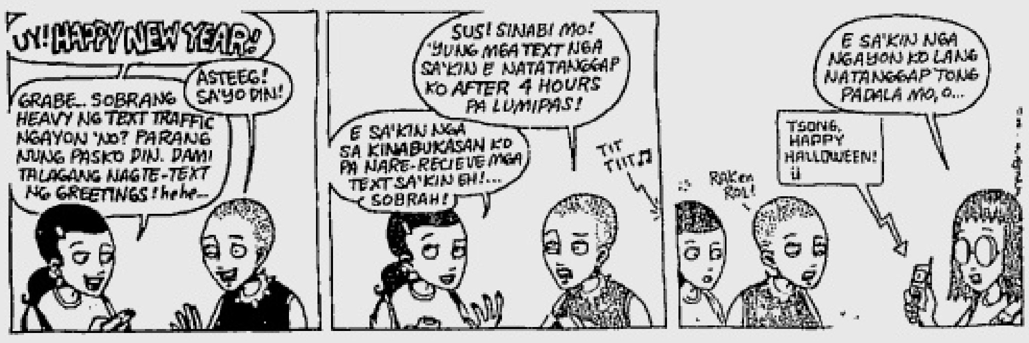
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

Happy New Year!!!
J. Tejido 12.03

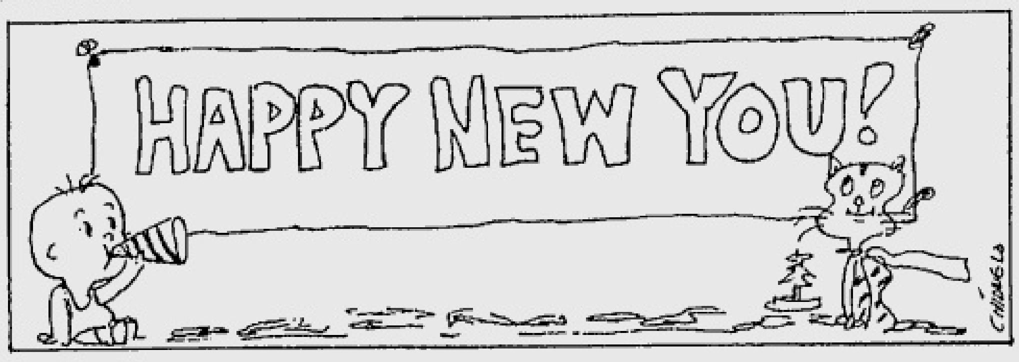
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
ASTEEG! SA'YO DIN!
GRABE... SOBRANG HEAVY NG TEXT TRAFFIC NGAYON 'NO? PARANG NUNG PASKO DIN. DAMI TALAGANG NAGTE-TEXT NG GREETINGS! hehe...
SUS! SINABI MO! 'YUNG MGA TEXT NGA SA'KIN E NATATANGGAP KO AFTER 4 HOURS PA LUMIPAS!
E SA'KIN NGA SA KINABUKASAN KO PA NARE-RECIEVE MGA TEXT SA'KIN EH!... SOBRAH!
TIT TIIT
RAKen ROL!
E SA'KIN NGA NGAYON KO LANG NATANGGAP 'TONG PADALA MO, O...
TSONG, HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HAPPY NEW YOU!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
2004

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are practical, competent and focused on your goals. You know what you want. You work best within an organized structure and a specific time schedule. Your ambitions often exceed what others expect of you, because few know what you are truly capable of. You are more liberal than you appear. Expect big changes this year.
Birthdate of: Betsy Ross, American seamstress; J.D. Salinger, writer; Verne Trover, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be gentle with yourself and with family members today. You might feel angry about something. (Anger serves no purpose other than to make everyone miserable.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your inner doubts might hold you back today. you feel irritable and easily angered. you feel worried is because of some kind of inner fear. (This will pass almost immediately.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Go slowly today. Differences with a friend about financial matters (or possibly a possession) cloud your good judgment. Think before you speak.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It seems as if no matter what you do today, your efforts to assert yourself are blocked in some way. This can be frustrating. Quit trying so hard.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Travel plans and matters connected with publishing hit the wall today. This might make you feel hopelessly inadequate. Obviously, this has no basis in reality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel trapped by your obligations and duties to someone or something. One part of you is struggling to be free. The other part of you realizes, "This is life."

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conflict with partners and bosses is likely today. If open disagreements do not occur, you might be seething within. Take 10 deep breaths to center yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You will need to be extra-patient today with co-workers. Even though you're prepared to work hard, it seems as if everything moves forward at a snail's pace.

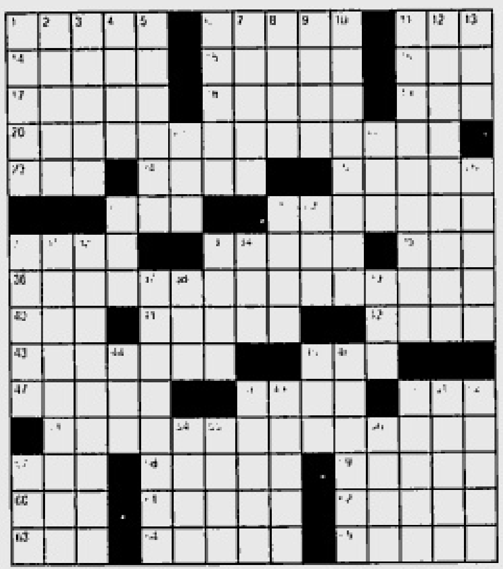
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's as if one part of you is holding back today, while the other part of you wants to break free. This can make you feel paralyzed. Everyone is tense today: It will pass soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have to muster up all the patience you have when dealing with family members today. Be kind to others. Pessimism and self-doubt run rampant today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're worried. Possibly the remarks of someone seem to embody the very essence of your worst suspicions about yourself. Try to ignore this, because it's really not true.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is not a good day for financial investments. Disagreements about spending money related to children, vacations and entertainment are likely. Put off whatever you can.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bill Swain
New Port Richey, FL
1/1/04

ACROSS
1 Water vapor
6 Brought to closure
11 Starting center?
14 Actress Shire
15 Electron tube
16 AEC's replacement
17 Violin maker of note
18 Against a thing, in law
19 __ de cologne
20 With 36A, today
23 Part of UF
24 Writer Seton
25 Metal fastener
27 Dye brand
28 College treasurers
30 West Point sch.
33 Large auk
35 La-la lead-in
36 See 20A
40 Charged atom
41 Get up
42 Joule fractions
43 Song stylist
45 Sale-tag abbr.
47 Tacked on
48 Miss in Sp.
50 Pub potable
53 Today
57 Bro's sib
58 Questionable board?
59 De Maupassant novel
60 Q-U connection
61 Deprive of courage
62 Church leader
63 Expressions of surprise
64 Jobs to do
65 Lascivious looks

DOWN
1 Underlings
2 Dravidian language
3 Satellite of Jupiter
4 River islands
5 Rum drink
6 Enlighten
7 Japanese mercenary
8 Mrs. Copperfield
9 Adam's garden
10 Objected
11 Energy sapper
12 Muslim mat
13 ER neighbor
21 Toronto's prov.
22 Some sloths
26 Russian rulers
27 Fink
28 Scottish hillside
29 Vessel with a spigot
30 City on the Erie Canal
31 Seafood choice
32 Greek writers for single voices
33 First president of the Sierra Club
34 Amer. ship designation
37 Distributes
38 Mine vein
39 -de-lance
44 Poetic contraction
45 Simpson trial judge
46 Palmeiro of baseball
48 Game-show host Pat
49 Nolan and Meg
50 Organic compound
51 Permanent con
52 Civil Rights martyr
54 Sushi choice
55 Becomes faint
56 Miss in Fr.
57 Sell-out letters

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

N	A	P	A	■	F	L	I	T	S	■	T	W	I	N
A	L	A	N	■	R	I	S	H	I	■	H	A	N	A
M	I	S	S	P	E	L	L	E	D	C	A	T	C	H
E	A	S	E	L	S	■	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	S
■	■	B	L	A	N	K	S	■	M	A	S	H	■	■
A	M	U	■	N	O	R	■	R	A	M	■	M	A	C
B	I	Z	E	T	■	O	V	E	N	■	M	A	C	H
A	D	Z	E	S	■	N	E	V	■	H	O	G	U	E
T	A	K	E	■	S	E	T	A	■	E	M	I	R	S
E	S	C	■	H	U	R	■	M	M	E	■	C	A	T
■	■	Y	M	I	R	■	I	P	E	C	A	C	■	■
S	A	F	A	R	I	E	D	■	T	H	E	R	E	S
S	P	O	K	E	N	M	I	C	R	O	S	O	F	T
G	E	R	E	■	A	M	O	R	E	■	O	S	T	E
T	R	E	S	■	M	A	T	T	S	■	P	S	S	T

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services Inc. All rights reserved
1/1/04

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Venue of memorable social, corporate events

ONE OF the factors that make Dusit Hotel Nikko the preferred venue of memorable social and corporate events is client satisfaction on food quality, personalized service and the facilities that the hotel offers. Notwithstanding this, the hotel's banquet sales team now goes a step further by creating new and special packages for special groups. They have tailor-fit each event to every client need. These are made possible within the 890-square-meter high ceiling ballroom which is a virtual princely court with an Art Nouveau motif. With elegant interiors, the ballroom is divisible into three smaller sections with a pre-function area for pre-dinner, cocktails or post meeting receptions. Ideal for grand events, large banquets, social functions as well as conventions and corporate meetings, the ballroom has a ceiling height of 24 ft. with a built-in center stage and audiovisual equipment.

Special rates and amenities will be provided according to budget, and attention to detail is assured. While the grand ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko can accommodate banquets for 800 to 1000 persons, the hotel also offers 12 meeting and function rooms that can accommodate 10 to 60 persons. These are located at the mezzanine and second floors and afford guests with rooms with a view.

For banquet requirements or inquiries, call 867-333 extension 3313-15.

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
27th Floor, Trident Towers, 312 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 1200
Tel. (02) 889-1000/ fax (02) 889-2765
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati.citygardenhotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-0895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

A special place for special people

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the social and business destination south of Metro Manila, opens its doors to special children in need of special education through a dedicated on-the-job training program.

Through partnership with The Learning Center, the hotel helps special children like Colin Ivan Chua and Jerome Hopkins develop social and comprehension skills. Achieving these skills will enable them to prove that they can easily be integrated into society as normal individuals.

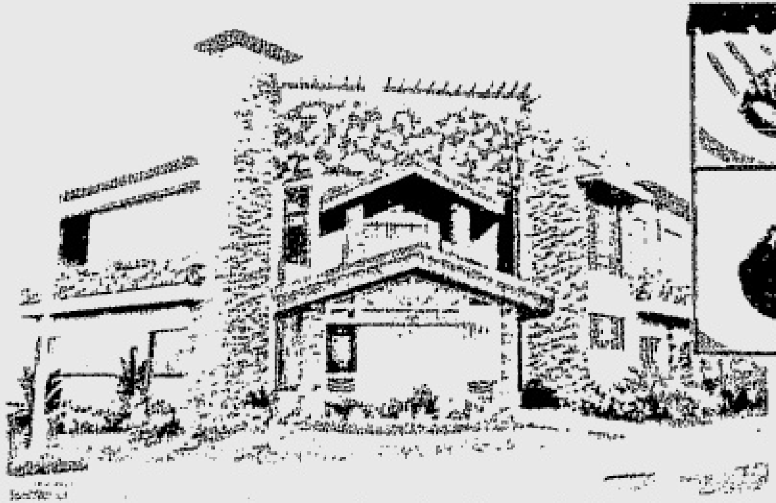
The Learning Center is a school that seeks to help special children discover, develop and maximize their potential through a variety of special education services. It is the center's goal to enable such children to function well in a family setting and participate actively in community life, making them true contributors to society.

The special trainees are not the only ones benefiting from the training program. Bellevue employees also learn to relate effectively, harness their teaching skills and acquire a heightened sensitivity to the needs of others, while giving the trainees a sense of responsibility and belonging.

Apart from its strong involvement in the Alabang community's programs, the Bellevue is known for its warm, intimate and home-like atmosphere. The hotel with five-star appointments boasts of 222 deluxe and suite rooms, modern communications and banquet facilities, luxurious spa treatments, the latest gym equipment and services, Jacuzzi and infinity pool, an Asian specialty restaurant and an entertainment center on its topmost floor with a music lounge, main and sports bar. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

People, Events & Products

Congo Grille sizzles anew in the south



THE SOUTH of Metro Manila continues to live up to its boomtown image. But as malls and the small restaurants inside them begin to overcrowd with Christmas shoppers, it's a nice thought to be able to leave all of that for a familiar setting where extensive space, great food and service, and a genuine *al fresco* section provide a welcome breather to a tired and hungry populace: Congo Grille and Restaurant.

Right at the heart of Filinvest City in Alabang, Congo Grille stands apart like a beacon for corporate personnel and area residents alike, guiding their taste buds to sample its sizzling and sumptuous dishes. Alabang customers are so taken by it that they're coming in droves and getting booked for catering service.

Fortunately, space is not a problem, from the ample open-air parking space that can accommodate 200 vehicles, all the way to its 450-senter floor area, which also boasts of a function room with divider that can hold up to 160 customers. There's also an enclosed kiddie area where the little ones can be left off to play or watch their favorite kids show on video. Rising two stories, Congo Grille Alabang easily claims the title of the biggest grille for many miles around.

"We're pleased to have finally come down South to bring the Congo Grille dining experience to customers in this flourishing area of Metro Manila. Alabang is a promising site for business operations and so we're confident of continuing our success story here, based on some of the most favorable responses we've received from our customers," said Babes Dalmacio, assistant director for operations of Con-[illegible]

Owned and operated by Kenneth Sytin and Gilbert Gillette Garcia, Congo Grille is the first to start the concept of "air-conditioned grillery" way back in 1999. From Timog in Quezon City, the restaurant has expanded to include El Pueblo in Ortigas Center, then Pasay Road in Makati, before finally hitting Alabang.

Something rare in this newest branch is the *al fresco* dining, especially at night. "Somehow, the air in the Alabang area is cooler and clearer at night than in other places. When you dine *al fresco* here at Congo Grille Alabang, "it's *al fresco talaga*", claimed Dalmacio.

Among the restaurant's bestsellers are *sisig*, crispy *pata*, *kare-kare*, tuna belly, grilled *pusit* and blue marlin, all done with special twists in taste. Plus, there's also tuna tail, a premium alternative to crispy *pata* for the more health conscious diners. All these and more are prepared using only the finest, freshest ingredients and definitely, no MSG. There's also the Congo Rice which is served with squid ink and topped with *calamares*. For dessert, the owners recommend Congo Mango and the special frozen *maki*.

The truly amazing fact of Congo Grille is that it has retained the original price on its menu—without any increase—since its launch way back in 1999. This means an assurance of quality and affordability, from its hot cuisines right down to its cool P26 beer.

Bigness in fun and in taste is the standard that the management has set for Congo Grille's food and service. That's why it has always been mistaken for a foreign franchise. The staff is always up on its toes to deliver quick, courteous and utmost service, and each branch is replete with exotic accents and decors in earthy color tones and modern Asian/African theme.

The new branch provides delivery services to bring the fantastic taste of its dishes right to the customer's doorstep. To avail yourself of any of Congo Grille Alabang's services, call 771-0085 or 771-0927.

'We're pleased to have finally come down South to bring the Congo Grille dining experience to customers in this flourishing area of Metro Manila'

He said, she said in 2003

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

AS WE welcome the new year, allow me to cite a flashback of some of the quotable quotes that Dollywood gathered in 2003.

I would like to thank all the stars for trusting me with their innermost thoughts. And, of course, thanks to all my readers for believing me and believing in me.

Here's to a fabulous 2004!

Pops Fernandez: "I've reached a point where I don't mind what others say or think about the choices and decisions I make. It's my own happiness and I'm entitled to it just like everybody else is."

Dina Bonnevie: "I won't sit here waiting for Mr. Right to find me. I've come this far to know what I can and cannot live with. I do hope that the next guy who comes along will be for keeps already."

Aiko Melendez: "I have forgiven Jom (ex-husband **Jomari Yllana**) and **Ara** (Mina, his girlfriend). I just let them be. That's what made me at peace with myself."

Alma Moreno: (On **Kris Aquino** and Alma's ex-husband, **Joey Marquez**): "Why drag me into their mess? Isn't it enough that they're together?"

Angel Aquino: "When my dad passed away, I decided not to look at him lying in the coffin. I always want to remember him alive and vibrant."

Luke Mejares: "What you see isn't always what you get. Some people show you a palette of colors but in reality they are just painting gray."

Alessandra de Rossi: "I just woke up one day and I realized that I wanted to patch things up with **Assunta** already. Pain and anger are too heavy to carry for so long. I don't want to have any excess baggage anymore."

Tintin Bersola: "Between **Julius (Babao)** and me, I'm the outspoken one. But when he surprised me and proposed to me on nationwide TV, I became speechless. I get misty-eyed every time I recall that moment."

Paolo Montalban: "I don't think of myself as some bigshot just because I was able to penetrate Hollywood. It's just a job I have to do and do it well."

Janice de Belen: "We read different books about how to make our relationships work, hoping to find the answers. But no matter how many books we've read, we find ourselves repeating the same pattern in our love life. We think we have learned from our previous relationships, but actually we we will always love the same way. We can't fight our own nature."

Patricia Javier: "There are days I find it more fulfilling to sing than to act because you get instant reaction from the crowd."

Maui Taylor: "I feel like I've exposed every part of my body already, and yet I still don't have enough money. Something's gotta give."

Regine Velasquez: "Even when the **Ariel Rivera** episode in my life is already history, people will still put color to my friendship with Ariel and (his wife **Gelli de Belen**), but I refuse to be bothered by such petty intrigues."

Bong Revilla: "The irony is, sometimes my efforts to eradicate piracy as VRB head is more appreciated abroad than here. The citation they gave me in the US is proof of that."

Troy Montero: "I've had good and bad break-ups with my ex-es, but I somehow find a way to make it up to them in due time."

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Alan Bates dies of cancer

LONDON—Alan Bates, who first gained fame on the London stage and went on to star in a string of successful 1960s movies including "Zorba the Greek," has died, his agent said Sunday. He was 69.

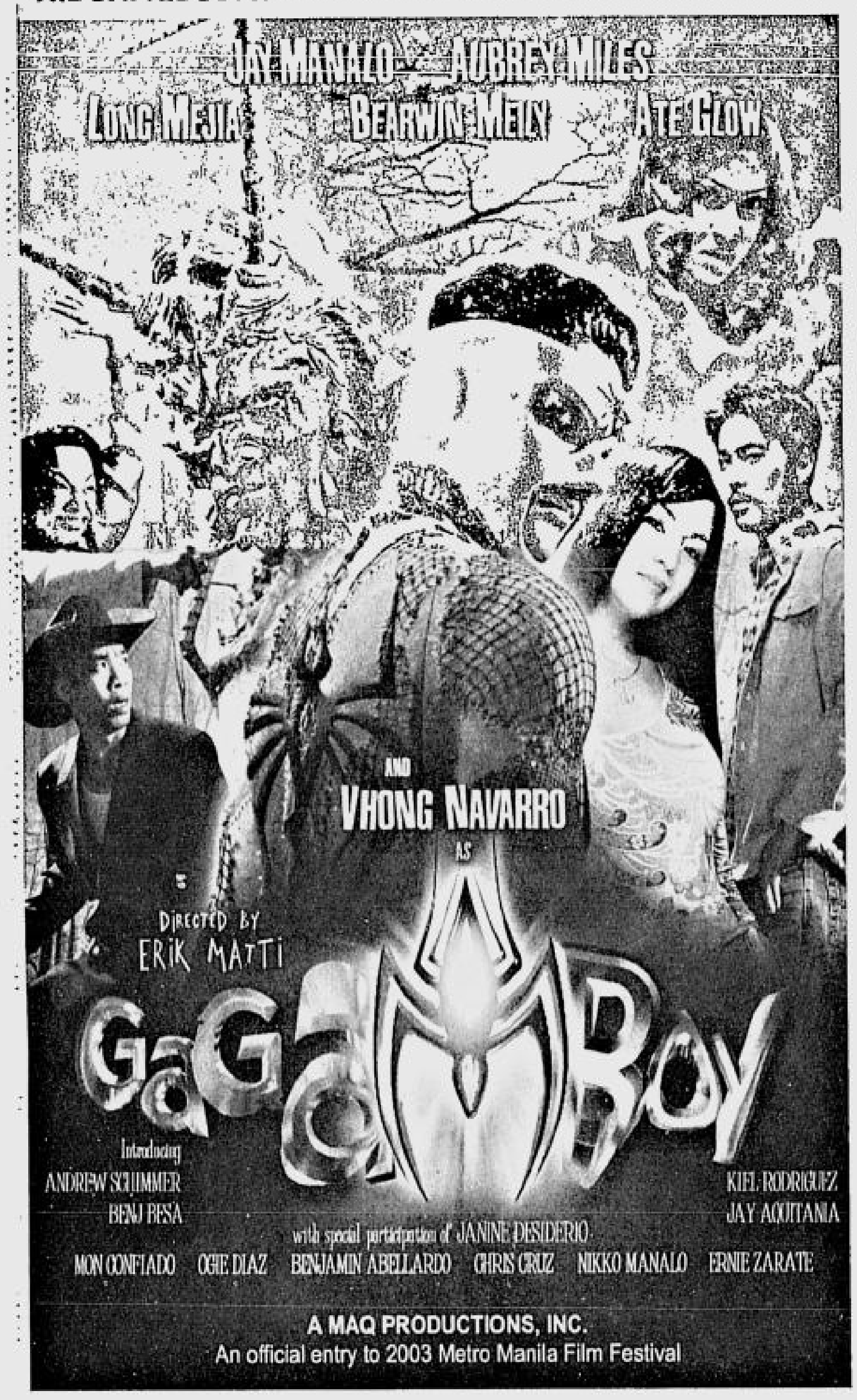
Bates died of cancer in a London hospital Saturday night, said his agent, Rosalind Chatto.

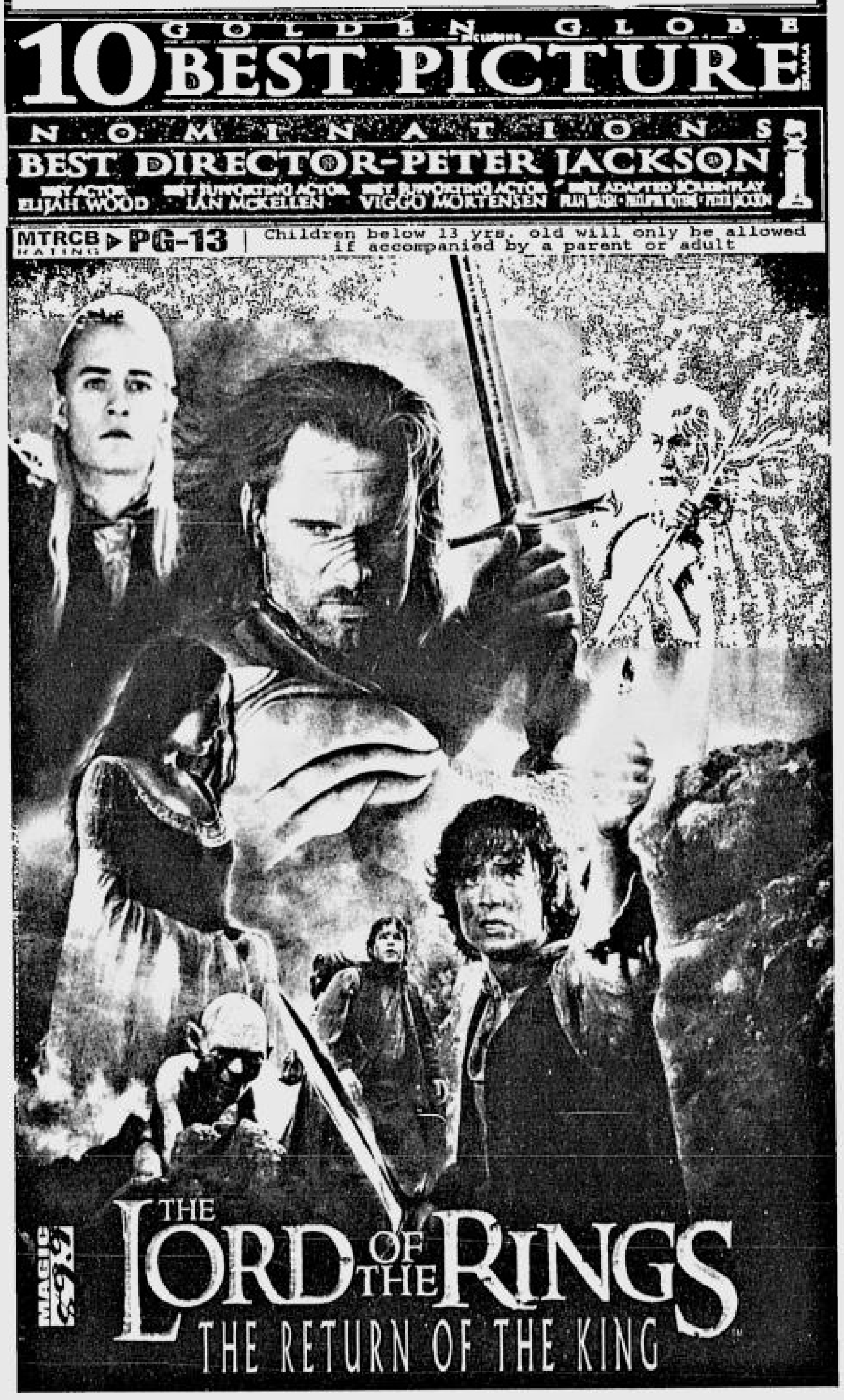
Regarded as one of the most versatile actors of his generation, Bates forged his reputation on the British stage, notably playing the resentful working class young man Jimmy Porter in a late 1950s production of John Osborne's "Look Back in Anger."

His first important film role was opposite Laurence Olivier in 1960's "The Entertainer." In 1964 he played Basil in "Zorba the Greek," and two years later acted in "Georgy Girl" with Lynn Redgrave.

He was nominated for a best actor Oscar award for his work in 1968's "The Fixer," in which he starred alongside Dirk Bogarde. The following year he played Rupert Birkin in "Women In Love," based on the D.H. Lawrence novel, starring alongside Glenda Jackson and Oliver Reed.

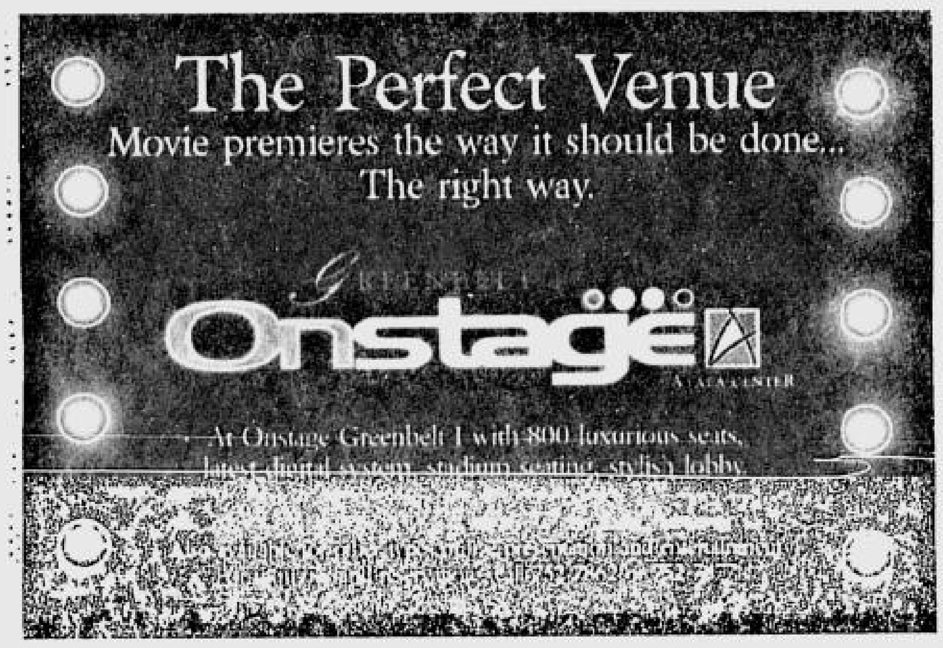
Alan Arthur Bates was born in Derbyshire, central England. *AP*

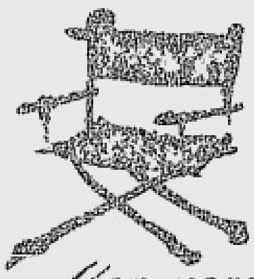

THE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL IS COMING TO TOWN!
JAY MANALO AUBREY MILES
LONG MEJIA BEARWIN MEILY ATE GLOW
AND VHONG NAVARRO AS
DIRECTED BY ERIK MATTI
GaGamBoy
Introducing ANDREW SCHIMMER BENJ BESA
KIEL RODRIGUEZ JAY AQUITANIA
with special participation of JANINE DESIDERIO
MON CONFIADO OGIE DIAZ BENJAMIN ABELLARDO CHRIS CRUZ NIKKO MANALO ERNIE ZARATE
A MAQ PRODUCTIONS, INC.
An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival
29th
OPENS TODAY


The most awaited film of the New Year
opens on **Jan 9, 2004** in over
300 theaters nationwide.
10 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE
BEST DIRECTOR-PETER JACKSON
BEST ACTOR ELIJAH WOOD · BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR IAN MCKELLEN · BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR VIGGO MORTENSEN · BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE RETURN OF THE KING

Stargazing at Ayala Cinemas
Meet & Greet
the cast of
BRIDAL SHOWER
Have your picture taken & signed by the cast of Bridal Shower!
Plus win exciting prizes!
JANUARY 1 (Thursday), 2003
6:00 PM - GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA LOBBY
7:00 PM - GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA LOBBY
BRIDAL SHOWER OPENS JANUARY 1
AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Upclose and Personal
WITH
Captain Barbell
Darna and Lagablab
at
Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas
January 1
GALLERIA 2:00 PM
METRO EAST 6:00 PM
January 2
NOVALICHES 5:00 PM
ERMITA 7:00 PM
MTRCB Rating: GP
MARS RAVELO'S CAPTAIN BARBEL
CALL 1-900-BARBELL


The Perfect Venue
Movie premieres the way it should be done...
The right way.
GREENBELT
Onstage
AYALA CENTER
At Onstage Greenbelt 1 with 800 luxurious seats,
latest digital system, stadium seating, stylish lobby
[illegible]


The country's
one and only
private cinema.
Now it can be yours.

For private movie screenings, intimate parties and impressive presentations.

Package includes Popcorn and Drinks, Parking Passes, Timezone Gamepass & Invitations.

Rates vary depending on Peak, Regular & Off-Peak slots.

For inquiries & reservations, call 752-7862 or 757-3860 to 63.

GREENBELT 3
mycinema

For Backroom, it was a very good year

From page A24

Roger in "Rent," concentrates on corporate shows. Last year, he was in the US for concert tours with Dessa.

Rufa Mae Quinto is finishing "Masikip sa Dibdib," a sequel to "Booba," also produced by Viva Films. She is a regular on TV's "SOP," "Bubble Gang" and "Idol Ko si Kap."

Gladys and the Boxers with K continue their regular gigs at Soundstage Cainta on Tuesdays, Ratsky Tomas Morato on Fridays, Ratsky Malate on Thursdays and Music Warehouse on Saturdays. The group will also perform at Casino Filipino Tagaytay on Jan. 26. Gladys Guevarra is one of the hosts of "Eat Bulaga" and is also in "Lagot Ka.". Kakai Brosas will be seen in "Kakabakaba" on GMA 7 and "Ispup" on ABC 5.

Raymond Bagatsing recently returned from Israel where he shot a movie, "What a Wonderful Place," from the same producers that made "Broken Wings," an Oscar finalist for best foreign film. Raymond is in "Narito ang Puso Ko" on GMA 7.

Drew Arellano is a regular on "Click" on GMA 7 and "Retro TV" on IBC 13.

For inquiries and bookings for Backroom artists, call 435-1108, 435-1120, or 435-1098, fax 928-0717, or e-mail backroom@nsclub.net.

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MANO PO 2
Ali 2	FILIPINAS
Ali 3	CAPTAIN BARBEL
Ali 4	CRYING LADIES
Ali 5	MALIKMATA
Ali 6	FANTASTIC MAN
Ali 7	HOMECOMING

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

JAN 1	DISNEY ON ICE - 4:30PM / 8 PM
JAN 2	DISNEY ON ICE - 4:30PM / 8 PM
JAN 3	DISNEY ON ICE - 1PM / 4:30PM / 8PM
JAN 4	DISNEY ON ICE - 1PM / 4:30PM / 8PM
JAN 12	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
JAN 14	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
JAN 19	WORLD SLASHER CUP 2004

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MALIKMATA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LIBERATED
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIKTIMA
CINEMA-2	ALIPIN
CINEMA-3	WAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 1
CINEMA-6	CHAVIT
CINEMA-7	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
CINEMA-8	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LOST ISLAND
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORDS OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR RUNNER
CINEMA-12	CABIN FEVER
CINEMA-14	JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
CINEMA-15	ELF

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	OUT OF TIME
CINEMA-1	JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
CINEMA-2	FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS
CINEMA-4	COLD CREEK MANOR

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	MANO PO 2 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 GP
CINEMA 2	HOMECOMING 11:20, 2:00, 4:40 PG 13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MUSIC MUSEUM	JAN 9, 2004 "KYLA RECALL"	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

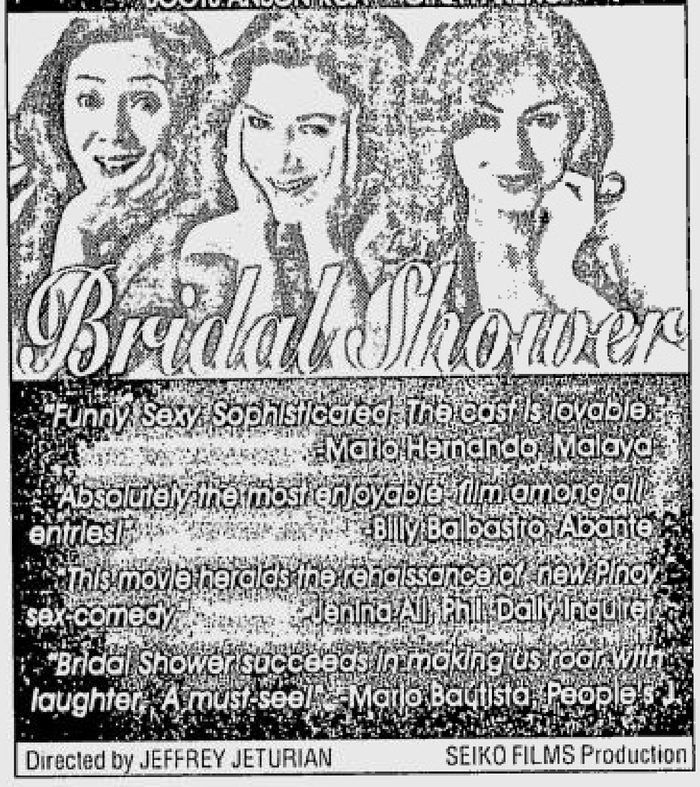
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MMFF 2003

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

NOW SHOWING

THE "FUN" MOVIE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

DINA BONNEVIE CHERRY PIE PICACHE FRANCINE PRIETO
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ RODEL VELAYO
BOOTS ANSON ROA GINA PAREÑO



"Funny, Sexy, Sophisticated. The cast is lovable." -Mario Hernando, Malaya

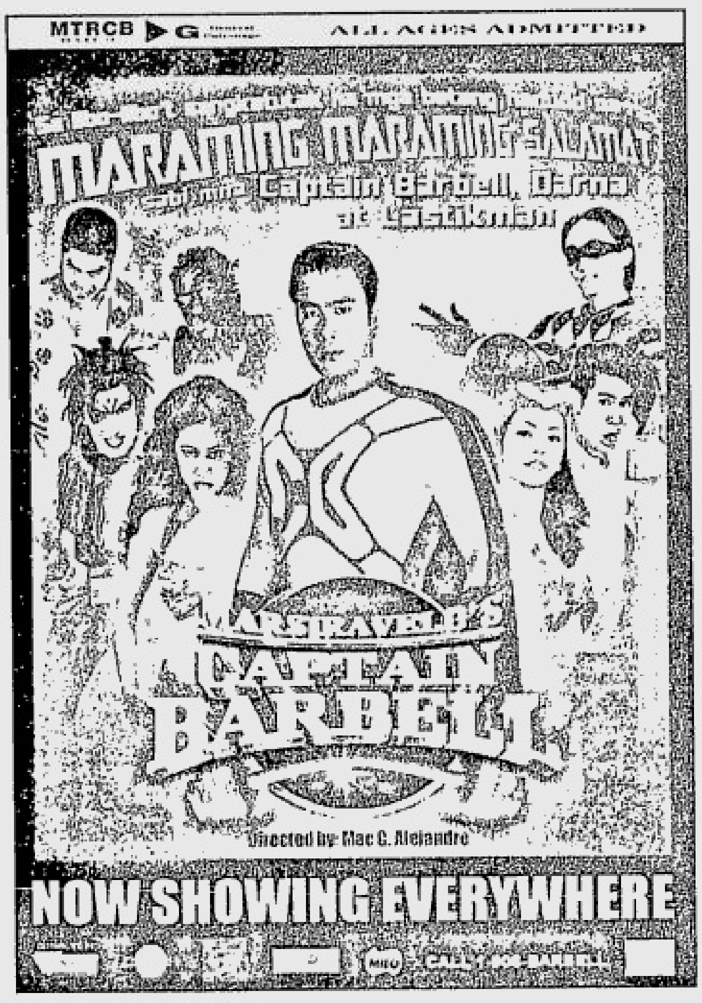
"Absolutely the most enjoyable film among all entries!" -Billy Balbastro, Abante

"This movie heralds the renaissance of new Pinoy sex-comedy." -Jenina Ali, Phil. Daily Inquirer

"Bridal Shower succeeds in making us roar with laughter. A must-see!" -Mario Bautista, People's J.

Directed by JEFFREY JETURIAN SEIKO FILMS Production

MTRCB G ALL AGES ADMITTED


MARAMING MARAMING SALAMAT
Captain Barbell, Darna at Lastikman
MARS RAVELO'S CAPTAIN BARBELL
Directed by Mac C. Alejandre

NOW SHOWING EVERYWHERE

MTRCB G ALL AGES ADMITTED

PEOPLE's CHOICE for Best Picture Award • 2003 MMFFP 2nd Best Picture Award
Best Original Story • Best Cinematography • Best Production Design • Best Float

Mano Po 2
MY HOME

NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MANO PO 2	1 FANTASTIC MAN	ArtFilm 1 MANO PO 2	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MANO PO 2	THX 1 CRYING LADIES
2 FANTASTIC MAN	2 FILIPINAS	2 FANTASTIC MAN	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 CRYING LADIES	2 CAPTAIN BARBEL
3 MALIKMATA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MANO PO 2	Onstage	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FILIPINAS	3 MANO PO 2
4 CAPTAIN BARBEL	4 MALIKMATA		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MALIKMATA	4 MALIKMATA
	5 CAPTAIN BARBEL		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CAPTAIN BARBEL	5 MANO PO 2
	6 CRYING LADIES			
	7 CAPTAIN BARBEL			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2	MALIKMATA
3 (DTS)	FANTASTIC MAN
4	HOMECOMING
5	CRYING LADIES
6	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
7	MANO PO-2
8	CRYING LADIES
9	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
10	MANO PO-2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
2 (DOLBY)	MANO PO
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DOLBY)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	MANO PO-2
2	HOMECOMING
3	FANTASTIC MAN

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	CRYING LADIES
2	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
3	FANTASTIC MAN CAPT. BARBEL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	MANO PO-2
5	

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	MANO PO-2
2	CRYING LADIES
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	MALIKMATA
6	CAPT. BARBEL

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	CAPT BARBEL

PREMIERE CINEMA

(Makati City) tel 892.2503 LUCASFILM THX

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MANO PO
2	FANTASTIC MAN

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	CRYING LADIES
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

5	MALIKMATA
6	CAPT. BARBEL
7 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES
8 (SDDS)	FANTASTIC MAN
9 (DOLBY)	MANO PO-2

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	MANO PO-2
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (SDDS)	PILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	MALIKMATA
6 (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
7 (DTS)	CAPT. BARBEL
8	CRYING LADIES
9	MANO PO-2

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2 (SDDS)	HOMECOMING
3 (DTS)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DOLBY)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	MANO PO-2

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	CRYING LADIES
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3 (DTS)	CAPT. BARBEL
4	MANO PO-2
5 (SDDS)	MALIKMATA

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
Lords	FANTASTIC MAN

Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	MALIKMATA
3	CRYING LADIES
4	CAPT. BARBEL

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1	MANO PO-2
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3	MALIKMATA
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	FANTASTIC MAN

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	MALIKMATA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7

1	MANO PO-2
2	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
3	CAPT. BARBEL
4 (SDDS)	CRYING LADIES
5 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
6	FANTASTIC MAN
7	HOMECOMING
8	
9	

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
3	MANO PO-2
4	CAPT. BARBEL

Cine Nepo

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DTS)	MANO PO-2

Cine Nepo

(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	MANO PO-2
2	CRYING LADIES
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	MANO PO-2
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4	MANO PO 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2 (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
3 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	MANO PO-2
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3 (DOLBY)	MALIKMATA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	MALIKMATA
2	CAPTAIN BARBEL
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DTS)	MANO PO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel)

1	SOON TO OPEN
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	MANO PO 2

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MALIKMATA
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	HOMECOMING
4 (DTS)	MANO PO-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	CAPT. BARBEL
2	CRYING LADIES
3 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
4	MANO PO-2
5	FANTASTIC MAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	HOMECOMING

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2	MALIKMATA
3	HOMECOMING

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2	MANO PO-2
3 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES
4 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3	MANO PO 2
4	FANTASTIC MAN

Emperor

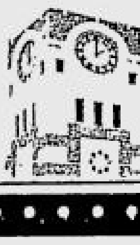
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	MALIKMATA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

OPENING IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

- The Philippines' first Rocker Seats with retractable armrest
- Stadium seating for unobstructed viewing
- Automated Box Offices for easy ticket purchasing
- 4 Dolby Digital EX cinemas for the best in cinematic sound environment

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL 867-8913 TO 17

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Bridal Shower' biggest, most welcome surprise in film fest

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE viewed all of the nine entries in the ongoing Metro Manila Film Festival before the film fest opened last Dec. 25. However, since we were a festival juror, we have refrained from commenting on the films until after the awards night last Saturday.

We start our MMFF movie rundown with "Bridal Shower," which begins its film fest run (along with "Gagamboy") today. Truth to tell, we can't understand why the movie's showing was deferred, except possibly for its sexy orientation. But this didn't bother the MMFF in past years, so the mystery remains.

In any case, the film should click with viewers because it's both well-made (by **Jeffrey Jeturian**) and entertaining. To our mind, it's the biggest and most welcome surprise in the MMFF.

At first glance, it's "just" a sex comedy—but the production soon serves notice that it has much more than laughs and skin going for it.

"Bridal Shower" quickly and effortlessly involves moviegoers in its amusing *and* bemusing story of three women looking for Mr. Right—in a modern world where so many men are so terribly wrong. It's a quandary that quite a lot of women face these days, so audience empathy is strong. Also involving are the lead performances of **Dina Bonnevie**, **Cherry Pie Picache** and **Francine Prieto**, with Picache pacing the gifted and spirited field.

These and other plus points result in a film that keeps the laughs coming while also sharing insights about love, lust, low self image, desperation, "practicality," mutual exploitation, cyber sex—etc.!

Keeping all of these elements in proper focus is filmmaker Jeffrey Jeturian, who confidently and at times masterfully keeps the production interesting and fascinatingly revelatory of human nature.

His storytelling was so engaging that, when we needed to go to the toilet while watching the movie, we had to postpone the trip as long as possible because we were afraid we'd miss something particularly interesting or important.

We were also impressed with the confident performances turned in by the relative newcomers in the movie, led by **Alfred Vargas** as Picache's macho-dancer lover. Among the supporting performers, **Boots Anson Roa**, **Pinky Marquez** and **Rodel Velayo** stood out. Here again, Jeturian's guiding hand was clearly at work.

We like "Bridal Shower" because it depicts its characters' sensuality and erotic lives without being smarmy, gross or visually gauche. Even better, it shows sex as just a part of life, instead of the excessive, compulsive and obsessive flesh fetish it is in many cheapie, quickie sex flicks.

That's quite an improvement, so Jeturian's film should be appreciated for bringing wit and sophistication back to local sex comedies.

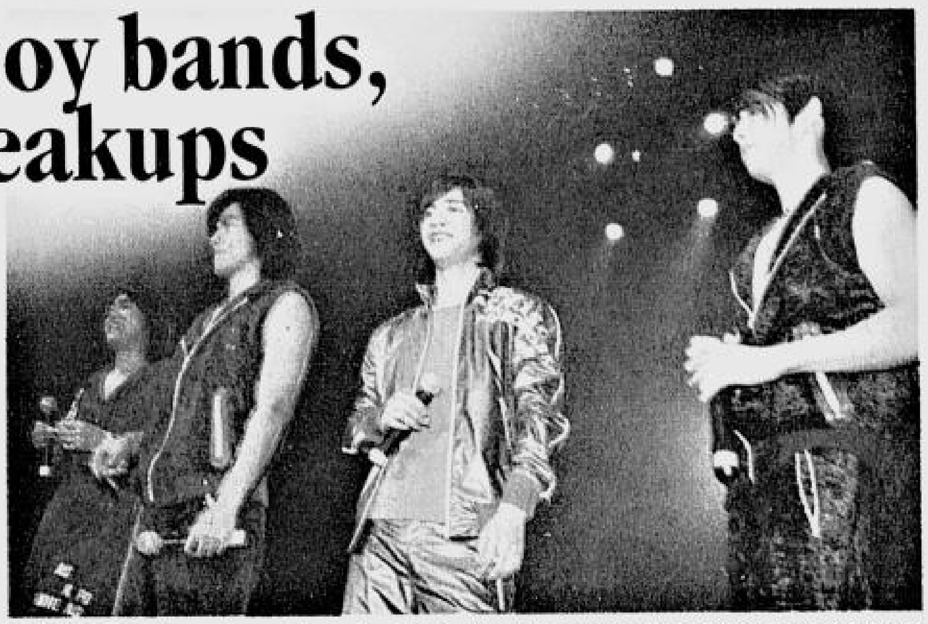
"Bridal Shower" calls to mind **Ishmael Bernal**'s "Working Girls," "Mister Mo, Lover Boy Ko" and "Pito ang Asawa Ko," as well as the '70s sex comedies of **Danny Zialcita**—pretty good company for Jeturian's movie to be in!

Elvis impersonators

MEMBERS of the **Elvis Presley** Friendship Club will guest on "Deedee's Day" at 12:30 p.m. today on RPN-9. They include founding chair **Chito Bertol**, **Richie Barangay**, **Boy Malabonga**, **Jun Poncio**, **Alfred "Boy" Sanchez**, **Walter Perez**, **Lito Jauregui**, **Alex Torres** and **Homer Mendoza**.

"Deedee's Day" is hosted by **Deedee Sytangco**.

2003: Bombshells, boy bands, breakouts, breakups



POWER OF 4. Not quite as talented as the Beatles, the new mop tops of (from left) Ken, Jerry, Vic and Vanness aroused almost the same mass hysteria.

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

THAT was the year that was. Like Philippine show business itself, it was full of stunners and intrigues and laughter and sadness.

The king of Philippine movies himself, Fernando Poe Jr., on Nov. 26 ended all speculations about his political plans and announced he was seeking the highest office in the land this year. He said his love for country, and not his best friend, deposed President Joseph Estrada, helped him decide. Comedian Vic Sotto called him the man who could heal the land. Will his wife, Susan Roces, the queen of Philippine movies, be the next First Lady?

If FPJ's declaration was much anticipated, the news of the violent breakup of Kris Aquino and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez was a total bombshell that hit the country on Sept. 23 and left it reeling for days after. "*Tinutukan niya ako ng baril*," Kris said on nationwide TV. It was the gun that was not fired that was heard 'round the nation.

Last heard of, Kris admitted she and the mayor were talking again.

'Meteor' power

The land was also rocked by another bombshell, which kept on returning like an old song—the Taiwanese boy band called F4, from the Taiwanese soap "Meteor Garden."

First came Vaness Wu and Ken Zhu in September; they sang three songs each at the muddy Philsports field, and the huge crowd loved them.

Then came Jerry Yan and Vic Zhou in November; they sang three songs each at the Fort open field, and the huge crowd loved them.

Then came all four young men together in a show at Philsports again, and the huge crowd loved them still, no matter that it was the day after Christmas.

Will the "Meteor" power ever fall?

Bigger, lesser

Other foreign stars—far better artists than F4, and lesser celebrities than F4—came to town, but their audiences were not as huge as the F4 multitude: Mariah Carey, Mandy Moore, Duncan Sheik, Ronan Keating, Boyz II Men, Michel Legrande, Dionne Warwick, Stephen Bishop, and Michael Buble.

"Spaghetti Song" by the Sex Bomb Girls and "Otso-otso" by Bayani Agbayani became national anthems, drowning out even the live acoustic music of Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc and Nyoy Volante.

HOME TO MOTHER. Kris and former President Cory Aquino

Splits, denials

Compared to the Kris-Joey affair, other relationships in show biz were child's play. Aiko Meledez and Ara Mina got caught in a word war over the former's ex-husband who became the latter's new squeeze, Jomari Yllana. The latest word is that Aiko has found her own man, in actor Victor Neri.

Judy Ann Santos was blamed for the Robin Padilla-Liezl Sicangco marital split. Juday promptly denied it, joking that she was a "lesbian."

Happy ones

There were relationships that continued to be happy ones. Ruffa Gutierrez married her Turkish boyfriend, Yilmaz Bektas, who defied the war in Iraq to be with his bride in Manila last March. They now have a daughter, Lorin Gabriella.

On June 9, it was Ruffa's best friend Donita Rose's turn to get married, to Eric Villarama in Santa Barbara, California. Before the year ended, Eula Valdez, who also had a messy parting with longtime partner Ronnie Quizon early in the year, tied the knot with Richard Litonjua in Boracay.

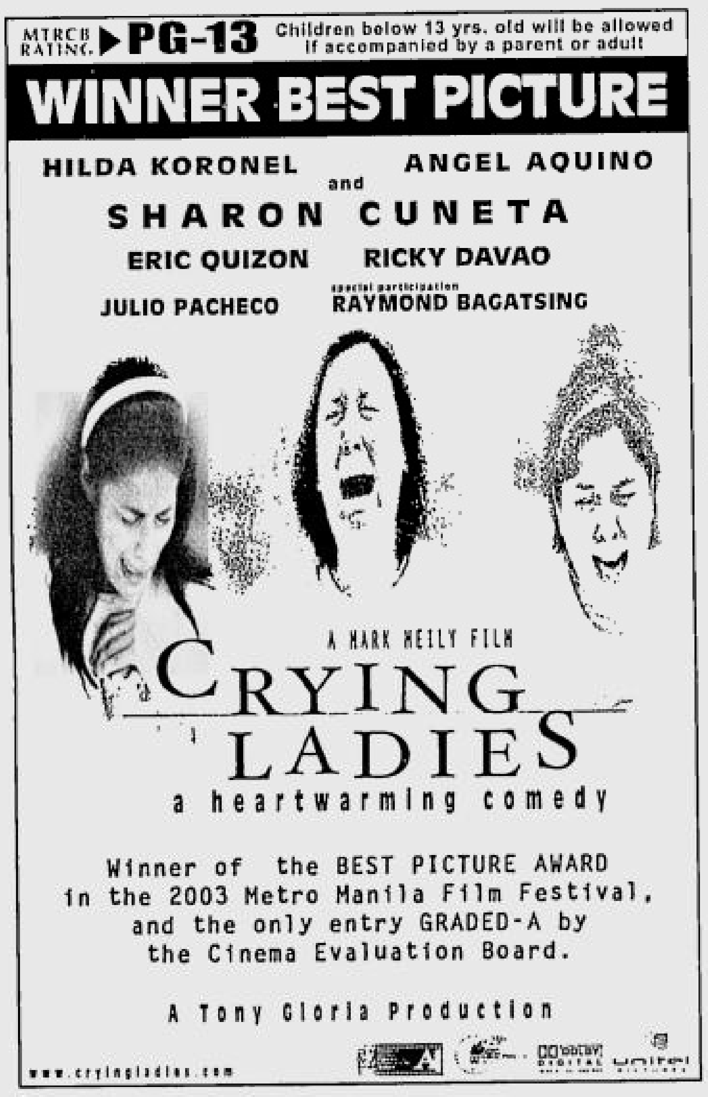
Sad ending

The year had its share of deaths: Queen of Intrigues Inday Badiday (Sept. 27, of multiple organ failure); veteran actors Oscar Moreno (July 19, cardiac arrest), Cesar Ramirez (July 19, cardiac arrest), Amado Cortez (March 23, tuberculosis and kidney failure), Fred Montilla (Dec. 5, heart failure), Vic Vargas (July 19, stroke), Ricardo Castro of the Reycard Duet (Nov. 13, diabetes and heart complications); actor/radio commentator Rod Navarro (April 9, prostate cancer); directors Danny Holmsen (June 2, murder) and Tata Esteban (Sept. 10, cardiac arrest); entertainment editor Julie Fe Navarro (Oct. 7, cancer).

The year was nearly over when young actor Miko Sotto, son of ex-couple Maru and Ali Sotto, fell to his death from his 9th floor condominium unit on Dec. 29.

Like Miko's life, 2003 was short and hurried, but it was an also unforgettable year.

"DA KING" FPJ wants to be "Da President."



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

WINNER BEST PICTURE

HILDA KORONEL and ANGEL AQUINO
SHARON CUNETA
ERIC QUIZON RICKY DAVAO
JULIO PACHECO special participation RAYMOND BAGATSING

A MARK MEILY FILM
CRYING LADIES
a heartwarming comedy

Winner of the BEST PICTURE AWARD in the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival, and the only entry GRADED-A by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

A Tony Gloria Production

www.cryingladies.com

SM CINEMA Salutes The 29th Metro Manila Film Festival - Philippines 2003

metro manila film festival
December 25, 2003 - January 8, 2004
Crying Ladies » The Homecoming » Mano Po 2 » Filipinas
Malikmata » Captain Barbell » Fantastic Man
Opens on January 1, 2004
Bridal Shower » Gagamboy

Cinema opens at 10 am on December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004
Simultaneously showing in all SM Cinemas including Bacoor, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Marilao, Baguio & Lucena
For Screening Schedules, call SM Dial-A-Movie 8339999

For Backroom, it was a very good year

Comedy concert queen Ai Ai de las Alas was hailed as the new box-office queen

THE YEAR 2003 has been a good one for the talents of Backroom, they look forward to 2004 with much excitement.

Look what the Backroom artists achieved in 2003:

In the year just passed, comedy concert queen Ai Ai de las Alas was hailed as the new box-office queen after her first starring role, "Tanging Ina," surpassed all local box-office records. The movie has even led to a TV series.

Ariel Rivera returned to TV acting through "Narito ang Puso Ko."

Ima Castro, who has been playing the lead role in the London production of "Miss Saigon," married her British boyfriend, also a theater actor.

Singer/comedienne Kakai Brosas became a mainstay in the sitcom "Da Boy and Da Girl."

Dominic Ochoa opened an ice cream business called Thumbs Up, which can be found in various malls in the city. Dominic remains a mainstay of "Whattamen" on ABS-CBN.

The Company had an SRO audience when it staged a concert at the CCP with A Capella.

Backroom welcomed to its stable of talents Drew Arellano of the Sunsilk commercial fame, the hunky Chase Tinio, TV host Amy Perez and Ayen Munji-Laurel.

Ayen and her musician father will have a show together at the Shangri-la Plaza on Jan. 2.

In 2004, Ai Ai for one will start her *palengke* tour for Swift Sweet N' Juicy hotdogs. Negotiations are underway for new commercials. She is also busy with corporate shows. She is in four TV shows: "MTB," "Tanging Ina" and "Whattamen" on ABS-CBN and "Singgaling" on GMA 7. A follow-up to her "Tanging Ina" is also underway.

Dessa juggles her time between corporate shows and provincial performances.

Calvin Millado, who made waves as Frank N' Furter in "The Rocky Horror Show" and as

FOR BACKROOM/ A23

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

PETRON
Disney On Ice
Beauty and the Beast
Experience the enchantment live on ice at the Araneta Coliseum

BOOSTING REVENUE

Exchange reimposes transaction fees

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is reimposing transaction fees on all trades effective today to boost its revenue.

The stock market is on a holiday break and will resume trading on Monday.

In a memorandum to brokers, PSE acting corporate secretary Aissa Encarnacion said the transaction fees—equivalent to 0.5 basis points for each buy or sell order—would take effect today.

However, the move has triggered strong opposition from some brokers, who claimed that the reimposition of the transaction fee was ill-timed because the market was down and that volumes have yet to recover.

"If we are not able to pass on the additional cost to clients, the brokers will suffer further," a broker said.

The broker added that the measure should have been imposed in good times, not when the brokers were having difficulties in making both ends meet.

"It should have been reimposed when volumes were huge so that the PSE would have saved enough for the drought," the broker said.

The board of the PSE, which recently listed its shares without public offering, reimposed the transaction fee in order to boost its sagging cash flow.

The transaction fees were suspended by the PSE in 1995 as the brokers wanted to reap the fruits of huge market volumes. At that time, the stock market was at its peak and the PSE could afford to waive earnings from transaction fees.

The fee means that for every P500 million in value turnover in a single day, the exchange can generate an incremental income of P50,000 from the buy and sell transactions.

It was earlier estimated that the measure could generate between P6 million and P12 million in additional revenue a year, assuming an average daily market volume of between P250 million and P500 million.

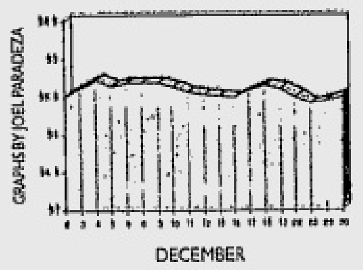
To date, listing fees comprise the bulk of the PSE's earnings. As this revenue source dried up in the past years, the exchange has relied on earnings from its fixed income investments.

During the first nine months of last year, the PSE incurred a net loss of P300,000, a reversal of the P28 million in net profit in 2002 and P18.3 million in 2001.

The PSE, which has shed off its mutual status and converted into a stock corporation, is building a sustainable business model to make its shares attractive to investors.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.50= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 30, 2003

¥ 106.96 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 30, 2003

GOLD: $413.80-414.30

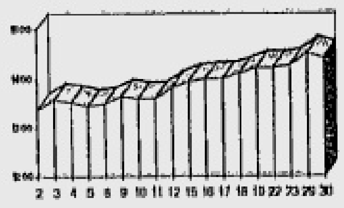
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 30, 2003

December 31, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.800961	1.000000	55.569000
Japan	Yen	0.007478	0.009336	0.518800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.420024	1.772900	98.518300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.103186	0.128828	7.158800
Switzerland	Franc	0.640871	0.800128	44.462300
Canada	Dollar	0.611141	0.763009	42.399600
Singapore	Dollar	0.470655	0.587613	32.653100
Australia	Dollar	0.594317	0.742005	41.232500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.124622	2.652590	147.401800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213590	0.266667	14.818400
Brunei	Dollar	0.469277	0.585892	32.557400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000095	0.000118	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.020236	0.025265	1.404000
UAE	Dirham	0.218085	0.272279	15.130300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.248500	69.377900
Argentina	Peso	0.271512	0.338983	18.836900
Brazil	Real	0.280155	0.349773	19.436500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134324	0.167704	9.319100
India	Rupee	0.017565	0.021930	1.218600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.210807	0.263193	14.625400
Mexico	New Peso	0.071406	0.089150	4.954000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519262	0.648298	36.025300
Norway	Kroner	0.118643	0.148126	8.231200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013939	0.017403	0.967100
South Africa	Rand	0.119161	0.148772	8.267100
Korea	Won	0.000669	0.000835	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.110101	0.137461	7.638600
Syria	Pound	0.018101	0.022599	1.255800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023585	0.029446	1.636300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000502	0.000627	0.034800

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end 2003 up 42%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

LOCAL stocks yesterday succumbed to profit-taking after a creeping yearend rally, but fresh optimism for the new year remained as the main-share index ended 2003 with a 42-percent gain.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 8.33 points yesterday to close at 1,442.37 before the market paused for another long holiday break.

Despite the slight drop in the Phisix yesterday, gainers still outnumbered losers 36 to 16, with 43 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index was still up by 5.28 points at 874.78.

"There are still a lot of stocks which moved up due to window-dressing. Look at JG Summit (Holdings)," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas.

For the full-year, however, AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the 42-percent gain was a testament to how well the economy fared despite various local and global shocks.

Local stocks started out slow in 2003 amidt uncertainties over the Iraq war, the outbreak of the SARS killer virus and the global slump in the early part of the year.

Foreign funds likewise trickled back to the local bourse in the latter part of the year.

Roxas said that when trading resumes on Monday, activity would likely be slow but should pick up after the first week.

"The coming year may start off sluggish, as political jockeying will dictate the mood of the market in the first quarter. Already, the filing of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's candidacy and the commitment of popular newscaster and Sen. Noli de Castro to run as President Arroyo's running mate leave investors bewildered as to who has the best chance of winning in the 2004 elections," said ATR Kim Eng Securities.

Volume turnover improved yesterday to 885 million shares worth P660.64 million from 147.33 million shares worth P412.93 million on Monday.

Napocor to deploy power barges in Palawan, Mindoro

AN EXPECTED power shortage in Panay Island could be addressed by redeploying power barges currently based in Palawan and Mindoro, the National Power Corp. said.

Napocor president Rogelio Murga said the plan was being adopted in view of the delay in the transfer of he 108-megawatt Pinamucan power plant from Batangas to Iloilo in Panay.

Murga said four out of eight generation units from Pinamucan were expected to be operational in Iloilo no earlier than August or September.

"But the barges from Palawan and Mindoro would be running in Panay in April and May," the official said.

Early in December, Murga had said Napocor was planning to pull out the power barges now based in Puerto Princesa in Palawan and Calapan in Mindoro Oriental and replace it with land-based gas turbines.

The redeployment of the power barges would help mitigate the shortage of electricity in Panay, where dependable generating capacity is only at 73 MW while demand was hitting as high as 125 MW reflecting a shortage of 52 MW.

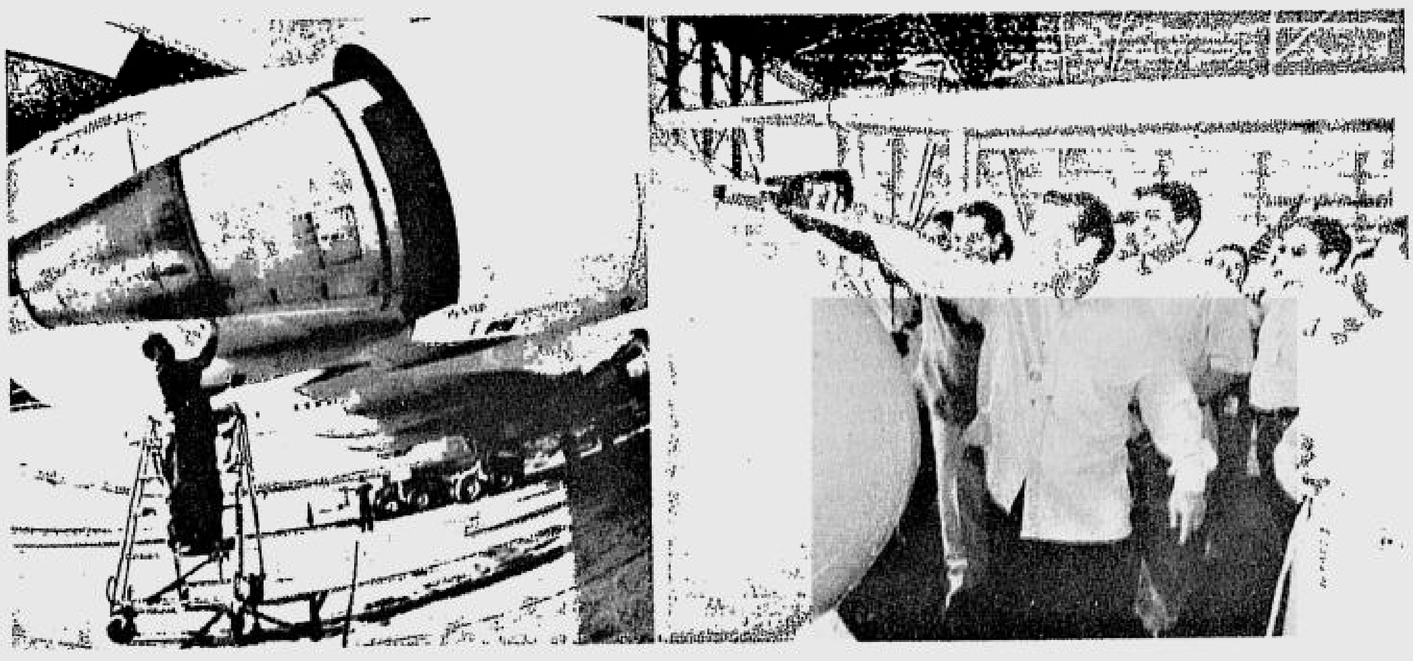
The Puerto Princesa power barge has a capacity of 9 MW while the Calapan barge can generate up to 32 MW.

To replace the barges, Napocor has conducted biddings for the lease of generators with capacity of 10 MW and 20 MW, respectively for Palawan and Mindoro.

"When the Pinamucan plant has already been reinstalled in Dingle, Iloilo, we can again redeploy the barges to other power-hungry islands like Basilan," Murga added.

Murga had said Napocor had raised the budget for the transfer of the Pinamucan plant to Panay to "more than P600 million from P535 million as it prepared for a negotiated deal with a contractor.

Two groups led by DM Consunji Inc. and EEI Corp. submitted sealed proposals after the bidding for the contract failed when bidders offered prices above the original budget for the project. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



PAL'S 5TH B747-400 JET

Philippine Airlines president Avelino Zapanta (right photo) pours champagne on the nose of a newly delivered Boeing 747-400, PAL's latest flagship aircraft, in a traditional good luck ritual during simple ceremonies at the Naia complex recently. With Zapanta are Capt. Julio Fernandez, PAL senior vice president for operations; Cesar Chiong, senior assistant vice president for corporate finance; Feliz Cruz, vice president for marketing, and the officiating priest. The B747-400 (right photo), PAL's fifth "jumbo" and 30th aircraft overall, was immediately put into service on a flight to Tokyo. It alternates on the Japan and trans-Pacific routes. The jet seats 425 passengers in a tri-class layout: 18 in first class, 24 in Mabuhay Class and 383 in economy.

Filipino investments in RP dollar bonds hit $6.4B

By Clarissa S. Batino

INVESTMENTS of Filipinos in Philippine dollar-denominated debt papers reached $6.4 billion in September, up $600 million from $5.8 billion a year ago.

The local investors' aggressive participation in the bond sale of the government and National Power Corp. worth $1 billion in the third quarter gave the September figures a big boost.

The residents' investments in those debt papers in September went up by $1.1 billion, from $5.35 billion in the previous quarter. Investments of Filipinos in Philippine dollar-denominated bonds were deducted from the country's external debt stock that stood at $56.3 billion as of end-September.

"In line with the internationally-accepted debt criteria in the compilation of external debt statistics, these investments are classified as domestic accounts and thus, excluded from external debt figures," according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

During the third quarter, the government sold $750 million worth of 10-year global bonds and relent the proceeds to Napocor. The power firm also did a $250-million bond issue a month later.

"The increase in the level of the residents' investments reflects the attractiveness of ROP yields and the overall performance of these bonds," said Tetangco.

The BSP said that the increasing investments of Filipinos in Philippine debt papers had been helping ease the pressure on the country's public debt position since last year.

Last year, the government took advantage of the increased interest in Philippine dollar bonds among local and foreign investors and issued close to $3 billion in foreign bonds while private companies also sold more than $1 billion worth of debt notes that time.

In 2003, the national government had issued about $3 billion worth of bonds, although $1 billion of which went to Napocor and $1.05 billion to the prefunding of the $1.8 billion financing requirement in 2004.

The national government said it would have to go back to foreign markets in January to raise its remaining $750-million requirement although a favorable market could prompt it to raise more funds.

MWC increases '04 capex to ₱3B

MANILA Water Company Inc. has increased its capital expenditure budget for this year to P3 billion, from the previous projection of P2 billion, in view of its continuing pipe system upgrading and a program to connect more new customers.

Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino said in an interview that the company had added P1 billion to the original capex estimates due to a project that would involve the installation of additional 100 kilometers of pipelines this year.

On top of this, the Ayala-led water concessionaire also had to replace about 300 kilometers of old pipelines that were inherited from Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

He said that MWC's non-revenue water projects and wastewater/sewerage expansion ate a third of its capital investments, which were financed through a mixture of internally generated funds and loans.

In the meantime, Aquino said the company was making progress in its drive to cut off illegal connections. But this, he said, was only half of the battle in the water services business.

"The other half requires the company to make a big effort in prioritizing its capital expenditure program and to see to it that everything that needs to be replaced is actually replaced," said Aquino.

He said that was the only way to curb systems losses. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Data services to give PLDT a big boost

By Abigail L. Ho

DATA-RELATED services are expected to give renewed strength to dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s struggling landline business, particularly with the expected uptick in corporate data usage in the coming months.

PLDT senior vice president Ernesto Alberto said in a briefing Monday that corporate data services would give PLDT's fixed line business a much needed boost.

"Fixed line will have renewed life in data. It will again be a very profitable business, moreso as we regain the market share we had during our monopoly days. Also, due to our deleveraging efforts, interest and other debt-servicing expenses will go down," he said.

The company expects its data business to grow by 21 percent this year, outpacing the projected global industry growth of between 12 percent and 15 percent.

Of the total data market, PLDT now claims to have a 63-percent share of the pie, up by three percentage points from last year's 60 percent.

Corporate data now accounted for around 25 percent of PLDT's fixed line revenues, Alberto said. This excluded the company's earnings from consumer data services.

But right now, he said around 60 percent of PLDT's corporate business still came from voice services, particularly from international leased lines that call centers used for calls coming into and out of the Philippines.

"Corporate voice is expected to grow by 10 percent despite the declining trend for voice services. This is mainly because of the influx of new call centers," he explained.

By end-2006, however, he said the revenue mix for PLDT's corporate business would likely shift, with 60 percent already expected to come from data services and the remaining 40 percent from voice services.

The company's whole fixed line business, he added, would follow the same path.

In an earlier interview, PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said data services were buoying the company's landline business and even paving the way for future growth.

PLDT fixed line posted a net loss of more than P1.4 billion in the first nine months of the year.

In the same period, the company repaid $150 million in debts. It was scheduled to make another $30-million loan repayment by year's end.

Next year, PLDT fixed line has $320 million in maturing obligations. With the repayments to be made that year, the company's debt level for its landline business will fall to around $2.1 billion.

HEALTH, ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

Foundation helps rural community help itself

By Christine A. Gaylican

CORPORATE CITIZEN

MANDUG, Davao City—The sudden death of her husband would have spelled the end of the world for housewife Julieta Manalili, 46, and her family.

But thanks to the livelihood program for the wives of the banana farmers of Lapanday Farms Corp., she was able to provide the needs of her children.

Aling Julieta earns a living from sewing protective gear for banana and pineapple plantation workers as well as curtains for Lapanday and its subsidiaries.

She and the other wives of plantation workers learned the sewing basics through the livelihood program provided by the Doña Luisa R. Lorenzo Foundation.

International food exporter Lapanday Holdings put up the Doña Luisa Foundation in 1995 to extend support to the plantation workers' families and to the residents of the plantation area.

"When the Lorenzo children Cito (now Agriculture Secretary) and brother Marco took over the management of the company, they saw that they should somehow help provide livelihood to the people in the community since they could not hire all the barangay residents," shares Precy Salahid, Lapanday's community development coordinator.

As a social worker and community development officer, Precy helped Lapanday Holdings conceive the HEAL project and now oversees its implementation.

HEAL stands for health and alternative livelihood, which were identified as the primary needs of the barangay residents.

The project reaches the far-flung villages in Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, South Cotabato, Davao City and the Buhangin district in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Lapanday Holdings provided P100,000 in seed money for the HEAL project in 1996.

She says that the main difference between the corporate social responsibility project of Lapanday and those of other companies is that the community members play a major role in identifying their needs and developing possible solutions.

"We don't go to an area with a package of services. It is not a dole-out. Part of the project is the data gathering for socio-economic data analysis, which forms the basis for discussions with barangay leaders," says Precy.

The common problems identified in the rural areas are the absence of sanitary latrines, potable water supply and alternative sources of livelihood.

Precy notes that the company does not provide all the requirements in the area.

The community and the local government units provide counterpart resources, either in the form of manpower or basic tools for the construction of water pumps.

The alternative livelihood component of the HEAL project does not only teach basic sewing courses, it also brings out the entrepreneurial spirit among the residents.

"They are taught how to make basic project feasibility studies and proposals as well as bookkeeping and inventory control. They must know the basics of cash management before money is given to them in the form of loans from the foundation's revolving fund," says Precy.

"With these tools, they are able to manage their small businesses well," she adds.

She says that from small scale fish and meat vending, *sari-sari* store, bag and rope making activities, dressmaking and sewing, some successful groups have evolved into community cooperatives.

"We owe a lot to the foundation's assistance," shares Aling Julieta, who proudly says that she now earns at least P15,000 a month from her sewing.

THE MANDUG Mothers Association received sewing machines from the Doña Luisa R. Lorenzo Foundation. They earn extra money from sewing protective gear for plantation workers in Lapanday Foods Corp.'s farms.

PCCI urges gov't to boost SME programs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged government to intensify programs to develop of small and medium enterprises, saying that it would improve the country's competitiveness.

PCCI president Noemi Saludo said the PCCI is pushing for five development activities: massive livelihood programs for the poorest Filipinos, especially farmers and fisherfolk; human resource development and implementation of product quality standards; linkage-building among businesses; recognition of PCCI's concerns, especially of its regional and local chambers and government-private sector collaboration on SME development programs.

The PCCI said it was pleased with the Macapagal administration's move to recognize the business chamber's resolutions aimed at pushing the country's economy forward.

The President instructed Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo to begin consultations with concerned government agencies for the possible adoption of the PCCI's resolutions, which were presented to the President during the Philippine Business Conference held in November last year.

Saludo said that the PCCI, with SMEs accounting for 95 percent of the membership, will initiate economic activities in various regions to help government in its efforts to boost business in the countryside.

One of the SME development programs of the PCCI this year is the development of a single brand for each province's main product, said Saludo.

"For instance, the various brands of pili nuts that all come from Bicol may be sold under one brand name. This way, competition among SMEs may be eliminated and the product recall will be improved," she said in a recent interview.

Politics to set tone for economy in '04

By Doris C. Dumlao

A PALL of gloom will hang over the Philippine economy early this year due to political uncertainties, private economists said.

"It is difficult to say what will happen to the economy because of the overhang in politics. Everything depends on it," said ATR-Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo.

"The recovery process should move faster, though there is no room for complacency. Domestic problems are still far from over and structural weaknesses remain in other areas," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"The global economic conditions will remain promising in 2004, but geopolitical uncertainties and the upcoming elections will tend to provide a reason for caution," he explained.

Ravelas said politics would dictate the movement in the economy in the first half with investors expected to remain at the sidelines until the national and local elections are over.

"As such, the slowdown in investment flows to support domestic demand will cause the economy to register lackluster growth in the first half of 2004," Ravelas said.

AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said the outcome of the presidential elections would be crucial because the country's fiscal, trade and monetary policies would depend on these.

"The pieces of the puzzle would fall in place in time but as of now, everything's scattered," Vistan said.

Lorenzo said the only economic indicator which could be insulated from the overhang in politics would be exports, which were seen to benefit from the coordinated global rebound.

"Generally, investors would be more comfortable if either GMA (incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo) or (former Senator Raul) Roco wins," she said.

Earlier, the peso plunged to an all-time low when Fernando Poe Jr., a popular movie actor without any experience in governance, announced that he would join the presidential race.

Ravelas, on the other hand, said that even the prospects of an export-led growth were not completely reassuring given the tentative recovery in the United States, continued weakness in Japan and Europe as well as mild recovery in global trade.

"While geopolitical risks have somehow receded since last year, they are far from being eliminated and any heightened increase in geopolitical uncertainty will tend to cloud the country's near-term outlook," Ravelas said.

He projected that the country would post a gross domestic product growth of 4.5 percent this year, slightly better than the official estimated growth estimate of 4.25 percent this year.

"It is also possible that the foreign exchange and financial markets will come under pressure should the political events turn more adverse than expected, thus adding volatility to peso and stock prices," Ravelas said.

WE DELIVER!

Hungry for news that would feed your mind? The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers straight to your doorstep. Subscribe to the country's #1 newspaper now!

Call: 528-0183 / 528-0186

Fax reply coupon to: 528-02-34 or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Please have my copy delivered to:

Name ________________
Address ________________
________________ Tel. No. ________
Signature ________________

Napocor asks ERC for rate hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has asked the Energy Regulatory Commission for an increase in rates and recovery of some P21 billion in deferred charges.

Napocor filed with the ERC last Dec. 10 a new petition for the recovery of fuel and purchase power costs under the generation rate adjustment or Gram.

In the petition, Napocor proposed to increase Luzon rates by P1.04 to P3.16 per kilowatt-hour, Visayas rates by 45 centavos to P2.86 per kWh and Mindanao rates by P1.41 to P2.43 per kWh.

Napocor said the proposed increases would enable the firm to recover deferred fuel and purchased power costs incurred between February and September of 2003.

Company data showed that the deferred charges during the period amounted to about P21.28 billion.

"The proposed revised (rates)...shall provide (Napocor) with sufficient means to improve operations to maintain reliable supply of electricity," the company said.

Meantime, Napocor president Rogelio Murga said in an interview that the provisional authority granted by the ERC for the firm to raise rates under the long-run avoidable costs (LRAC) method would expire this month.

"We will just let that lapse, no need to file for a withdrawal," Murga said.

He declined to explain why Napocor was abandoning the LRAC method, but industry sources said the rate-making scheme posed a conflict with Napocor's charter.

Rates under the LRAC method are based on the assumed rates that could be offered by a 'best new entrant' in the industry—such as a coal-fired plant running at 91 percent efficiency.

In the same October order, the ERC said Napocor's selling rate in Luzon should go up to P2.24 per kWh from P2.12 per kWh starting November last year.

The order also allowed Napocor to gradually raise its rates in the Visayas rates to P2.82 per kWh, up by 41 centavos from the current P2.41 per kWh.

Smart links up with 2 carriers

By Abigail L. Ho

SUBSCRIBERS of Smart Communications Inc. will now be able to use the services offered by two more Asian mobile phone operators.

Thailand's DTAC and Macau's CTM have recently joined the Asia Mobility Initiative (AMI), an organization of Asia-Pacific cellular service providers that share their products and services with each other's subscribers.

AMI was established in April last year by five cellular phone firms, all major players in their respective countries.

These are the Philippines' Smart, Hong Kong's CSL, Malaysia's Maxis, Singapore's MobileOne and Australia's Telstra.

With the entry of DTAC and CTM into the picture, the AMI now has a total subscriber base of more than 30 million subscribers.

"We welcome the addition of DTAC and CTM in the alliance. Our customers will now be able to benefit from and enjoy the many innovative services offered by these two operators in Thailand and Macau," Smart president and chief executive Napoleon Nazareno said in a statement.

In the past eight months that the AMI has been in existence, member-operators have been actively putting in place inter-network services that their subscribers can use, especially when traveling.

These services include the use of general packet radio service (GPRS), multimedia messaging service and caller line identification (caller ID).

In terms of content, AMI's members have also been working together to provide their subscribers with joint services by linking existing portals as well as sharing existing premium content.

These include games, entertainment and information.

"Our subscribers have come to rely on the increasingly sophisticated services accessed through their mobile phones. Overseas travel heightens this need. Cooperative arrangements such as the AMI enable travelers to access services not only back home but also those that host operators offer," Nazareno said.

"Participating operators can thus help create the 'home away from home' environment that our subscribers genuinely value."

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
[illegible]

1	MANO PO 2
2	GAGAMBOY
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	CAPTAIN BARBELL
5	MALIKMATA
6	CRYING LADIES
7	BRIDAL SHOWER
8	FANTASTIC MAN

SM CITY CEBU
[illegible]

1	BRIDAL SHOWER
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	GAGAMBOY
4	FILIPINAS
5	CRYING LADIES
6	MANO PO 2
7	MALIKMATA
8	CAPTAIN BARBELL

SM CITY BACOOR
[illegible]

1	GAGAMBOY
2	FILIPINAS
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	MANO PO 2
5	CAPTAIN BARBELL
6	MALIKMATA
7	BRIDAL SHOWER
8	CRYING LADIES

SM CITY PAMPANGA
[illegible]

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
3	MANO PO 2
4	FILIPINAS
5	MALIKMATA
6	CRYING LADIES

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
[illegible]

1	CRYING LADIES
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
3	GAGAMBOY
4	FILIPINAS

SM BICUTAN
[illegible]

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	BRIDAL SHOWER
3	MANO PO 2
4	CAPTAIN BARBELL

SM CITY MARILAO

1	MALIKMATA
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
4	MANO PO 2

SM STA. MESA
[illegible]

1	GAGAMBOY
2	CRYING LADIES
3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
4	CAPTAIN BARBELL
5	FANTASTIC MAN
6	FANTASTIC MAN
7	MALIKMATA
8	BRIDAL SHOWER
9	FILIPINAS
10	MANO PO 2

SM SOUTHMALL
[illegible]

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	FILIPINAS
3	CRYING LADIES
4	CAPTAIN BARBELL
5	GAGAMBOY
6	BNDAL SHOWER
7	MALIKMATA
8	FANTASTIC MAN
9	CAPTAIN BARBELL
10	MANO PO 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
[illegible]

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	BRIDAL SHOWER
3	GAGAMBOY
4	MALIKMATA
5	CAPTAIN BARBELL
6	FANTASTIC MAN
7	MANO PO 2
8	FANTASTIC MAN
9	CAPTAIN BARBELL
10	MALIKMAFA
11	CRYING LADIES
12	FILIPINAS

SM CITY DAVAO
[illegible]

1	MANO PO 2
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	FILIPINAS
5	BRIDAL SHOWER
6	CRYING LADIES

SM CITY LUCENA
[illegible]

1	CAPTAIN BARBELL
2	GAGAMBOY
3	BRIDAL SHOWER
4	FANTASTIC MAN

SM MEGAMALL
[illegible]

1	MANO PO 2 RESERVE-A-SEAT dial [illegible]
2	CRYING LADIES
3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
4	MANO PO 2
5	FILIPINAS
6	BRIDAL SHOWER
7	FANTASTIC MAN
8	CRYING LADIES
9	MALIKMATA
10	GAGAMBOY
11	CAPTAIN BARBELL
12	FILIPINAS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
[illegible]

1	CAPTAIN BARBELL
2	GAGAMBOY
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	MANO PO 2

SM CITY ILOILO
[illegible]

1	MALIKMATA
2	RESERVED
3	CRYING LADIES
4	GAGAMBOY
5	CAPTAIN BARBELL
6	MANO PO 2
7	RESERVED
8	BRIDAL SHOWER

SM CITY MANILA
[illegible]

1	GAGAMBOY
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
4	MANO PO 2
5	MALIKMATA
6	CRYING LADIES
7	BRIDAL SHOWER
8	FILIPINAS
9	CAPTAIN BARBELL
10	FANTASTIC MAN
11	CRYING LADIES
12	MALIKMATA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
[illegible]

1	BRIDAL SHOWER
2	CRYING LADIES
3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
4	MANO PO 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
[illegible]

1	MANO PO 2
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
3	CRYING LADIES
4	FANTASTIC MAN

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1	CRYING LADIES 12:20 FS/12:50 MF/3:15/5:40/8:05/10:00 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:25 END
2	MANO PO 2 11:20 FS/11:50 MF/2:30/5:10/7:50/10:05 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:45 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday • Regular P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS @ Robinsons Malls

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

DIAL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555

Galleria 632-9115-16 687-0593

THX /All Digital

1 HOMECOMING 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	4 MALIKMATA 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
2 MANO PO 2 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50	5 FANTASTIC MAN 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00	6 FILIPINAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 CRYING LADIES 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30	9 FILIPINAS 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
8 MALIKMATA 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	10 CRYING LADIES 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 526-7185 536-7809 to 12

1 MANO PO 2 - 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
2 FANTASTIC MAN - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
3 FILIPINAS - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
4 MALIKMATA - 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 9:50
5 CAPTAIN BARBEL - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
6 HOMECOMING - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
7 CRYING LADIES - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Metro East 682-6103/99 682-8280
Marcos hway

1	MALIKMATA
2	HOMECOMING
3	MANO PO 2
4	FILIPINAS
5	CRYING LADIES
6	CAPTAIN BARBELL
7	FANTASTIC MAN
8	FILIPINAS

Novaliches 935-3229 / 31

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	FILIPINAS
3	MALIKMATA
4	CRYING LADIES
5	CAPTAIN BARBELL
6	MANO PO 2
7	HOMECOMING
8	MANO PO 2

Cainta
Brgy. Sta. Domingo Ortigas Extension

1	MALIKMATA
2	CRYING LADIES
3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
4	FANTASTIC MAN

Malabon 288-0985/2575

1	CRYING LADIES
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
3	MALIKMATA
4	FILIPINAS

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas (043)757-3664/312-5870
FANTASTIC MAN	1	MANO PO 2
FILIPINAS	2	FILIPINAS
MALIKMATA	3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
CRYING LADIES	4	FANTASTIC MAN
CAPTAIN BARBELL	5	MALIKMATA

Dasmariñas		Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
MANO PO 2	1	FANTASTIC MAN
HOMECOMING	2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
FANTASTIC MAN	3	CRYING LADIES
CAPTAIN BARBELL	4	MANO PO 2
MALIKMATA	5	FILIPINAS
	6	HOMECOMING

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
MANO PO 2	1	MANO PO 2
FILIPINAS	2	FILIPINAS
CAPTAIN BARBELL	3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
FANTASTIC MAN	4	FANTASTIC MAN
MALIKMATA	5	MALIKMATA
ELF	6	CRYING LADIES

Star Mills (045)875-1927 (045)961-5270
San Fernando Pampanga

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
3	FILIPINAS
4	MALIKMATA
5	CRYING LADIES
6	MANO PO 2

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

There's a career in here.

JOB MARKET
www.jobmarketonline.com

MTRCB ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

BEST PICTURE

(Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas Cultural Awardee)

Best Actress- Maricel Soriano
Best Actor- Richard Gomez
(Smart People's Choice for Best Actor)
Best Supporting Actor- Victor Neri
Best Screenplay- Roy Iglesias

Wagi sa Awards!
Wagi sa puso ng
pamilyang Pilipino!

Filipinas
Gabi ng Parangal
Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas Cultural Award
VIVA

FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNER !!!

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS • BEST EDITING
BEST SOUND • BEST MUSICAL SCORE

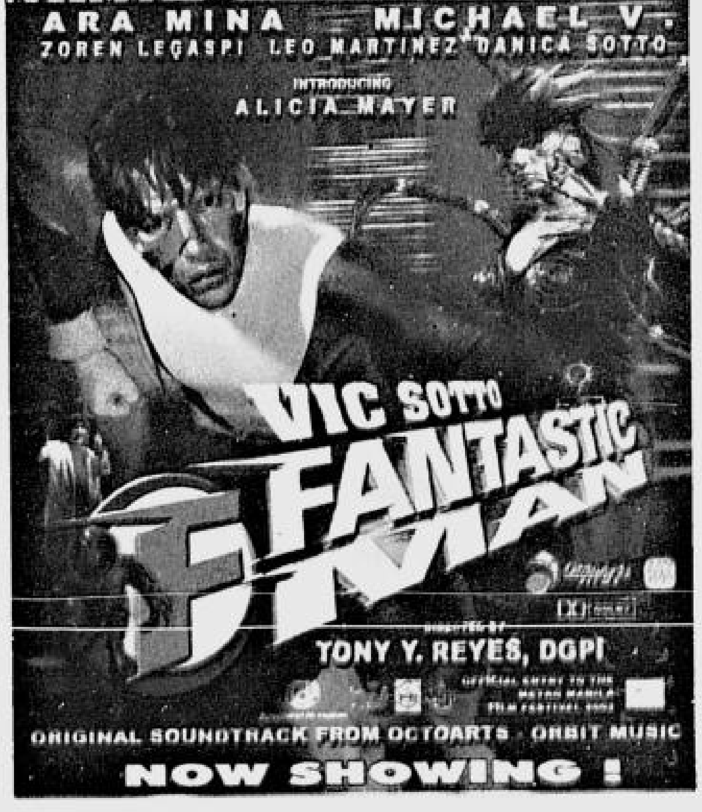
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Parental Guidance 13 : Children below thirteen (13) years of age shall be allowed only if accompanied by a parent or an adult.

This movie contains scary scenes that may not be suitable for very young viewers. parental guidance is proposed

MARVIN AGUSTIN
DINGDONG DANTES
RICKY DAVAO
WOWIE DE GUZMAN
ANNA CAPRI
NIKKI VALDEZ
AND
MS. BARBARA PEREZ
RICA PERALEJO
MALIKMATA
HANDA KA NA BANG MATAKOT?
DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES dgpi
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM OCTOARTS - ORBIT MUSIC
CANARY FILMS PRESENTATION
DOLBY
Distributed by: OctoArts Films
NOW SHOWING

CONGRATULATIONS BOSSING, ANG NO. 1 FANTASTIC SUPERHERO NG BAYAN

MTRCB ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED


ARA MINA
MICHAEL V.
ZOREN LEGASPI
LEO MARTINEZ
DANICA SOTTO
INTRODUCING
ALICIA MAYER
VIC SOTTO
FANTASTIC MAN
DIRECTED BY
TONY Y. REYES, DGPI
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM OCTOARTS · ORBIT MUSIC
NOW SHOWING !

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 6978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

RATES

P245 per column centimeter

P75 per line

(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES

for reservations / cancellations / corrections

Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

Akhin Thai Masg BAGUIO&MLA (02)8347357 CBU (032)2532597

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MSSGE M/F 09185059399 JAKE

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09195357404

FEELS GOOD 4127758

MALE SPA 7314018

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT TUTORIAL SERVICES 5301315 / 5268216

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAIDS 772-4213

Good Maid Yaya Driver 9957034

Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 853-3504

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS Call Josie 8737057•8737055

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya CALL:9124701 • 9124706

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

LBAHAY 7113540

LBahay7433225

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANDALUYONG

4 DOOR APT. MAND. 7M NEG. CALL JOEL 578-4677

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

950T 2BR 2STY 8054686

MUNTINLUPA

Alabang Hills 574sqm 7764856 09274726181

PARANAQUE

4-5BR nr Mkati & Airport 822-9993 • 0922-8088800

Hse & Lot BF Pque 7764856

PASIG

Kapitolyo 6br 637-7396

Capitolyo 637-7396, 631-3496

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

930T nr UST 0920-6309744

MANDALUYONG

Lee Garden/Malayan EZ Term 534-6610 Jojo

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAS PINAS

RUSH 429sqm Along BF Resort Drive Very Near Seton School Tel 837-3489

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view 426-5650•929-1832

CAVITE

598m² P450T 09198761637

RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR nr P.GIL 5634007 5642878

QUEZON CITY

Studio Unit w/TB kitchen grge 22 Charleyville White Plains Call late PM till evening 9115162

ROOM & BOARD

P150 only SAMPALOC, MLA. 7118679, 4113301, 4112311

Prj3 new 3.5T studio9137513

BUSINESS RENTAL

MALATE OFFICES 526-6048

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHIPEST IN TOWN Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

CARS/ VANS/ BRIDAL/ 6969956

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L300/ADV. 741-1356

MB HIACE URVAN 8276605

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 6966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3731021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

SHARPEI M/F 0917-9322868

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

DERMATOLOGIST • 637-7396

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement of the estate of WILFREDO V. WASAN w/waiver of shares executed by the heirs on Dec. 22, 2003 acknowledged bef. Notary Public Atty. Elsa V. Perlas of Pasig City entered in her notarial register as Doc. 2160, Page 53, Book CVIII, Series of 2003.
(PDI-Dec. 25, Jan. 1, & 8, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Security Agency T637-7396

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT AREA SAMPALOC MANILA 936-1426 / 937-2622

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

Security Agency • 631-3496

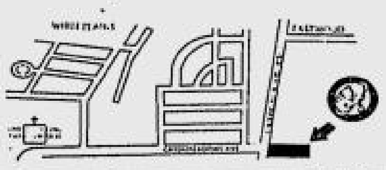
Smart E-Load Ez way 254-8708

Wanting to earn xtra 75-200T per month be consumer franchisee just like me call 8076619 09178377531 Resh

NOW OPEN

OLYMPIC BADMINTON CLUB

20 Taraflex Courts
World Class Indonesian Trainers
Controlled Air Exchange Ventilation System
Air Conditioned Lounge, Cafe and Lockers
Computerized Reservation System
Ample Secure Parking



108 E, Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., QC
T : 632.0797 / 632.7653
CALL NOW FOR SPECIAL PROMOS & TOURNAMENT PACKAGES

GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn about Gems & Jewelry

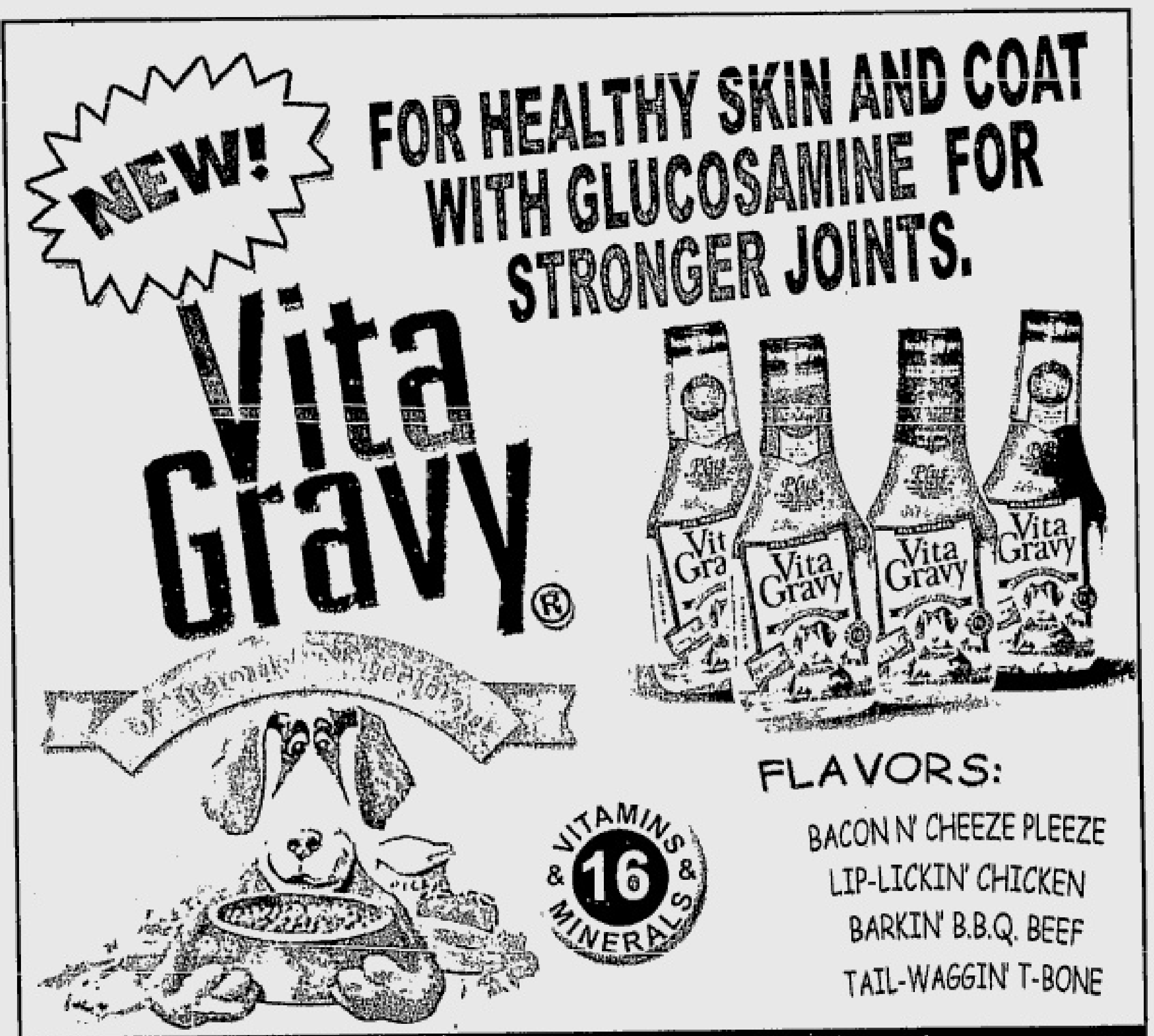
From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential

G.G. Program starts March 22, 2004

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77
Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com
www.giathailand.com



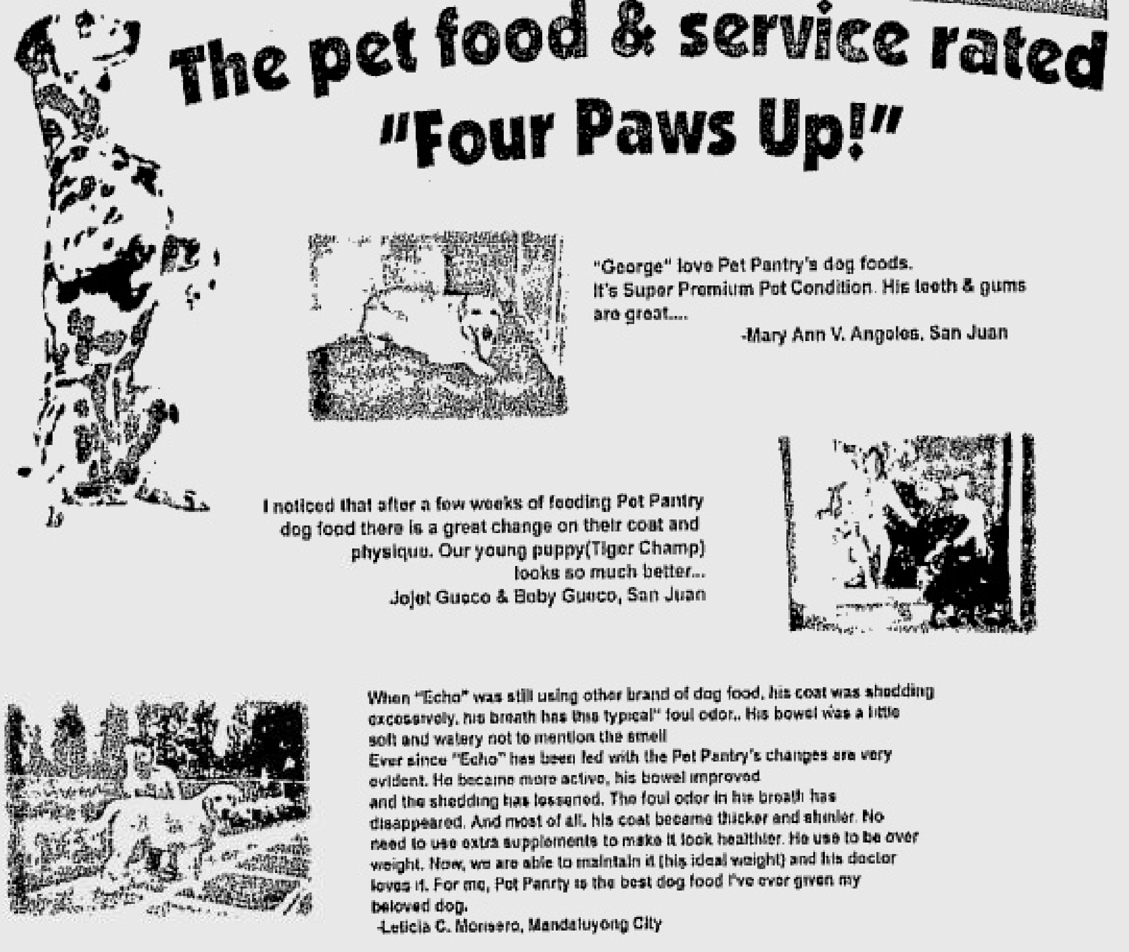
FOR HEALTHY SKIN AND COAT WITH GLUCOSAMINE FOR STRONGER JOINTS.

Vita Gravy®

FLAVORS:
BACON N' CHEEZE PLEEZE
LIP-LICKIN' CHICKEN
BARKIN' B.B.Q. BEEF
TAIL-WAGGIN' T-BONE

Available in selected Veterinary Clinics and Pet Shops or call the area nearest you:
Makati Tel. 896-6295 ● Pasig Tel. 628-3695 ● Quezon City Tel. 251-2571
Parañaque Tel. 837-4934 ● San Juan/ Mandaluyong Tel. 456-0699
Marikina Tel. 948-9827 ● Baguio Tel. (074)442-6417/ (074)442-9016
FOR OTHER AREAS NOT LISTED PLS. CALL 928-1991 OR 927-4181

The pet food & service rated "Four Paws Up!"



"George" love Pet Pantry's dog foods. It's Super Premium Pet Condition. His teeth & gums are great....
-Mary Ann V. Angeles, San Juan

I noticed that after a few weeks of feeding Pet Pantry dog food there is a great change on their coat and physique. Our young puppy(Tiger Champ) looks so much better...
Jojet Gueco & Boby Gueco, San Juan

When "Echo" was still using other brand of dog food, his coat was shedding excessively, his breath has this typical" foul odor.. His bowel was a little soft and watery not to mention the smell
Ever since "Echo" has been fed with the Pet Pantry's changes are very evident. He became more active, his bowel improved and the shedding has lessened. The foul odor in his breath has disappeared. And most of all, his coat became thicker and shinier. No need to use extra supplements to make it look healthier. He use to be over weight. Now, we are able to maintain it (his ideal weight) and his doctor loves it. For me, Pet Panrty is the best dog food I've ever given my beloved dog.
-Leticia C. Monsero, Mandaluyong City

If you want the best for your dog or cat. The Pet Pantry pet food is for you The Pet Pantry is much more than just professional, convenient free home delivery service We have gone to extremes to provide our customers with one of the finest pet food products in the world Our customers speak for themselves.

It is only natural that you want the best for your pets. They deserve it, and it just feels right A nutritious meal combined with proper amounts of exercise, veterinarian care and your love are the necessary ingredients to provide your pet with a long, healthy, and happy life.

For Free Delivery Pls call the area nearest you.

The Pet Pantry.
Nutrition you can trust. Service you can depend on.

Makati Tel. 896-6295 ● Pasig Tel. 637-7702 / (0918)260-3966 ● Quezon City Tel. 251-2571 ● Parañaque Tel. 837-4934
San Juan/ Mandaluyong Tel. 456-0699 ● Marikina Tel. 948-9827 ● Manila Tel. 309-7596 / (0917)810-6990
Provincial Territories: Baguio Tel. (074)442-6417/ (074)442-9016 ● Bulacan/Pampanga (0917)536-0533
(0916)758-5270 ● Davao (082)234-5423 / (0916)712-7069 ● Gen. Santos (083)302-6393/ (0920)922-4188
FOR OTHER AREAS NOT LISTED PLS. CALL 928-1991 OR 927-4181

Thank you for making 2003 a productive year for us. We will continue to serve you in the best way we can.
Let us all welcome the new year with peace in our hearts.

Have a Prosperous New Year!

From:
The Classifieds
&
Marketing Staff

JOB Market

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Mortuary and Crematory opening 1st quarter 2004!

Julieta Lopez Vda de Yuson

Joined our Heavenly Creator
at 2:00 a.m., December 31, 2003.

Her children, late **Faustino III**, **Emmanuel**, **Julfa**, **Jessie** and late **Anselmo** request those whom hearts she touched to remember her in their prayers with love and thanksgiving.

Her body lies in state in her residential home at San Lorenzo, Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 3, 2004 at Mangino Public Cemetery, Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

CENON MUYOT GALIAN

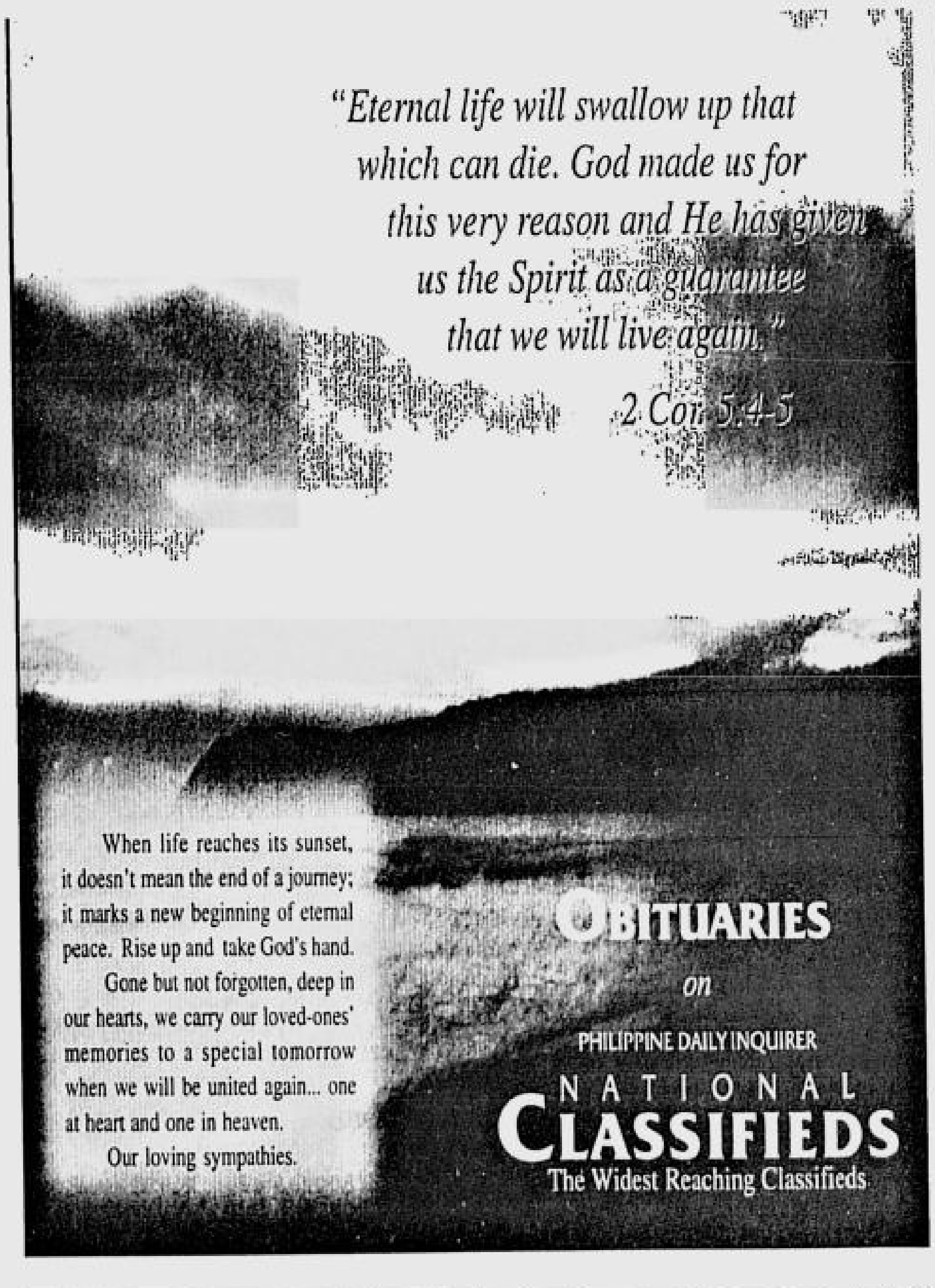
Peacefully joined our Lord and Creator
on December 30, 2003 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Elvira**; children **Pocholo**, **Ramon**, **Margot & Lulu**; daughter-in-law, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria National Chapel #3A Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 3, 2004 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

We design OBITUARIES for free.



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
• FREE OBIT DESIGN •

"In Christ all shall be made alive ..." Corinthians 15:22

ROSARIO RAMOS DEL ROSARIO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on December 30, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved husband, **Benjamin**; children **Mon** and **Fe**, **Noli** and **Viqui**, **Edward** and **Beth**, **Edith** and **Jun**; grandchildren **Mia**, **Missy**, **Nathan**, **Anna** and **Lean**; brothers **Jesus** (†), **Federico, Jr.** (†), **Benjamin**; sisters **Carmelita** and **Felicisima**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Holy Family Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City. Interment will take place on Saturday, January 3, 2004 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Councilor Zoilo "Iloy" Reyes (SPO4 Ret)

of Silang, Cavite

August 27, 1941 – December 29, 2003
joined our Lord at the age of 62.

His beloved wife Rita; children Tommy and Teny, Annie & Rod, Joni & Maan, Laila & Philip, Dindo & Hershey, Aries & Marnellie; grandchildren Warren, Ivy, Jaycee, Lle, Von, Vheia, Tracy, Aljon, Gretchen, Hedi, Margarett, Don Angelo, Kat-kat, and Bill Jacob and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Munting Ilog, Silang, Cavite.

Interment will be at Himlayang Paraiso, Silang, Cavite on Saturday January 3, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609
• Telefax 641-1760

AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave.,
Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128;
(0917) 434-9976

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street,
Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City;
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos,
Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688;
413-9400; 715-5594

DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086;
(047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City;
Tel. 894-5932 to 34

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan
St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133;
Fax No. 711-3064

DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave.,
Frisco, Quezon City;
Tels. 416-3231; 4162373

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave.,
Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion,
Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.,
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension,
Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las
Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion,
Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel,
Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266;
(0917) 895-0603

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros,
Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82

HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42;
(TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex
Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat,
Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur;
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917)
5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St.,
Project 2, Quezon City;
Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua,
Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35;
732-4795; 732-2827

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor.
Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001;
743-6502 or 05

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City;
Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417;
(046) 571-1978

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor.
Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial
Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe,
Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio
Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax
941-3577

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613; 273-8922

MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075)
515-5960; 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35;
714-0867; 714-0868

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026; 650-7426;
Fax : 697-2764

PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
18 V. Gomez St., San Roque,
Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839

PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave.,
Quezon City;
Tels. 427-8412; 4278403

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel,
27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan,
Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682;
(0915) 712-1220

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30;
Fax No. 843-9223

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City;
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St.,
Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels.
372-5084; 410-9286/87

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St.,
Pasay City; Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846;
843-1801; 845-4836

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila,
Tel. 302-5447

ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio,
San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914
Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

More free text for Touch Mobile subscribers

TOUCH Mobile subscribers are in for another value-added treat as Touch Mobile gives them more value for their money with the introduction of its 'free-text-based-on-load' service. This allows them to earn more free text depending on the call card denomination they load, which means the more they load, the more free text they earn.

Through this service, a subscriber will be able to use the free text without waiting for the next month as he automatically earns 25 free text for every P200 denomination of call card loaded, 35 for P300, 60 for P400, and 85 for P500.

Upon reloading, a subscriber will be advised or informed about his total account balance at the time of reloading plus how much free text he has received and the date of expiry as well.

With this innovation, there are now four ways by which subscribers can reload and avail of free text - the standard plastic call card, the electronic load (eLoad), the Touch Mobile Instaload, and the newly launched Family Autoload Service.

To reload using the familiar plastic call card, a subscriber will only have to dial 801 and follow the voice prompt. Denominations available are P50, P100, P200, P300 and P500.

The eLoad is similar to the plastic call card process except that it comes in paper format that can be purchased in different chains nationwide like gas stations, banks, and Globe Business Centers. The Electronic loads come in P50, P100, P200 and P400 denominations.

Through Touch Mobile Instaload, a registered subscriber is allowed to reload using different channels of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) such as BPI automated teller machines nationwide, web access via BPI Express Online and IVR by dialing 89-100. Only P200 and P400 denominations are available for this type of reloading.

The Family Autoload is an electronic means of purchasing and topping-up airtime load credits which allows a Family Loader to pass on credits over the air to other Touch mobile users in the family. A minimum purchase of P400 is required under this reloading system.

ARANETA GROUP OF COMPANIES' NEW COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

From left: Araneta Center Inc president Teofilo Asuncion and Araneta Group VP for corporate affairs Jojo Samson show the scale model of the soon-to-be-completed P2.5 billion Gateway Mall to its new communications team composed of Ramon Philip Abadicio of RPA & Communicate and EVP Marivic Gonzales and executive creative director Bert Taniziki for Caballero Worldwide Partners Inc. The new communications team of the Araneta Group of Companies will also handle other assignments such as the Araneta Center, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza, Farmers Market, Value Station, Coliseum Circle, Uniprom, Araneta Coliseum, Fiesta Carnival, Musicland, and Ticketnet, among others. RPA & Communicate will also handle the PR requirements of the Bb. Pilipinas Charities Inc and Pizza Hut.

MOTOLITE BATTERIES SUPPORTS JUDO COMPETITION

The Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila School of Cainta, held its first Judo competition sponsored by Motolite Batteries. The 1st Lorenzo Cup was held last Dec. 7 at the Robinsons Place Metro East Mall. Judokas from different schools and universities participated in the said event.

GSM BLUE BAR TOUR

December nights were made sizzling hot as GSM Blue went to some of the popular gimmick places for the newest craze - The GSM Blue Lemon Drop Body Shots Bar Tour. Winners received cool prizes from GSM Blue and non winners get party packs as well. The bar tour kicked-off last Dec. 5 at Art's Venue in Malate and the series continues in all weekends of December at Padi's Point Caloocan, Manila, Cubao and Alabang. Also included in the lineup are Music Warehouse Manila and Meycuayan. Photo shows party goers enjoying the GSM Blue Lemon Drop Body Shots Challenge.

BERNARDO LEADS BLESSING OF PERSONEROS/BROKERS PLAZA

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo (middle) leads the formal blessing of the Personero's/Brokers Plaza at the Port of Manila. Also in photo are POM district collector Napoleon Morales (2nd from left), Mark Ripka, Freddie Mozo and Fr. Geronimo Reyes as part of the 2nd anniversary celebration of The SPA Inc.

A salute to the growing family of Milo champions

IT TAKES more than serious training to win. One has got to have the will to run the extra mile, the skill to outlast the opponent and the heart to go for that extra kick. These, the Filipino athlete has powerfully mastered and displayed to the fullest in their 22nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games campaign, delivering to all and sundry the precious medals promised even before the games had started.

Milo is one with the nation in saluting the Filipino athletes who have defined the word sacrifice, foregoing with the precious time spent with their family, favoring to indulge in training in order to bring honor and glory to the country.

They have shown courage and presence of mind in making split-decisions before and during tournaments, and displayed grace under pressure especially when the going went from tough to rough.

Gracious in defeat, humble in victory, it is only then but befitting that these athletes be touted as one of our local heroes. They have made each Filipino's chest swell with pride with every feat achieved and each medal scored in the recent SEA Games.

Milo is humbled to note that it has been instrumental in the success of these sports heroes providing them a venue, through its numerous sporting events and clinics, that gave them a chance to hone their skills and talents.

Mark Paragua, Eduardo Buenavista and Allan Ballester are but some of the names that Milo takes pride in calling a part of its growing family. Paragua, who became the country's youngest chess international master at 16, was one of those athletes whom MILO has been supporting since he started showing promise in his chosen discipline. In the recent SEA Games, the now 18-year-old Paragua won the gold in the men's singles and team rapid chess events.

Meanwhile, Buenavista and Ballester were regular fixtures in the annual lung-busting race of the National MILO Marathon. The 4-foot-11 Buenavista was the King of the Road in the 2002 National MILO marathon. The track ace from Cotabato is the current holder of the MILO Marathon course record of 2:22:52, which remains unchallenged up to this date. Buenavista won the gold in the 10,000-meter event in Vietnam. While Ballester, the 2000 and 2001 back-to-back titlist in the MILO Marathon successfully retained the Philippines' gold in the event, first stoked by Roy Vence in the '99 Kuala Lumpur Games, also a regular figure in the annual Milo event.

Milo is thrilled that it's family of champions is steadily growing, finding and nurturing future champions in its midst through various sporting programs and events in which these athletes have tested their skills in preparation for the big event.

Diamonds in the rough they were, but now they are priceless jewels that shone in their respective field through sheer determination to excel, bearing the heart of a champion and the courage in defying the odds and come out winning.

Milo is glad to have been a part of your success. Saludo ang Milo sa inyo. Mabuhay, Team Philippines!

UNFAILING determination. Rain or shine, Allan Ballester ran at the National Milo Marathon to win the 2000 & 2001 national title. Determined, he kept on running, this time winning the gold at the Vietnam SEA Games.

THE FACE of a champion. This is the face of an athlete with a lot of heart. Eduardo Buenavista, National MILO Marathon record holder, took home the gold in the 10,000-meter event in Vietnam.

IBP MAKATI CITY CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OATH TAKING

The members of the board of officers and directors of the IBP Makati City chapter for 2003 - 2005 pose for posterity with Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., after their oath taking ceremonies held last May 9 at the chambers of the Chief Justice. Shown in photo (from left) are: assistant treasurer Jose Ma. Palaganas; PRO Jose Jose; assistant secretary Aileen Duremdes; director Thea Daep; director J. Alessandra Cochico; secretary Grace Quevedo-Panagsagan; vice president Maria Trinidad Villareal; Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.; president Santiago Gabionza Jr.; treasurer Danilo Cortina; director Joel Raymond Ayson; auditor Eloy Bello IV; and director Carina Lenore Sumilong-Bayon. Not in photo is director Ramon Songco.

FOTOWASH OPENS NEW BRANCH

FotoWash and Filmshop recently opened its Villamor Air Base branch as part of its Metro Manila-wide expansion. A one-stop shop, FotoWash provides world-class laundry service and a wide array of photo services in key locations in the metropolis. It also provides free laundry pick-up and delivery, and is giving away free rolls of film and photo album to lucky patrons the whole-year round. Shown at the shop's blessing and inauguration are FotoWash managing director Rowie Negranza; Fr. Ike Veloso, SDB; FotoWash business development director Dr. Tetchie Taccad; FotoWash chair Maria Burgos-Negranza, and guest Marissa Gonzales, president of Capriccio Wedding and Engagement Rings.

Bits & Clips

Strepsils' 'gimik' nights

IT'S THAT long New Year holiday weekend. To fully enjoy your nights, don't forget your most reliable Strepsils, and keep your wrappers, too, so you can have more fun *gimik* nights. The Boots Company Philippines Inc, makers of Strepsils, in cooperation with Strepcof cough syrup and Streptuss cough lozenge, presents "Gimik Nites" ongoing until February in selected KTV establishments, stand-up comedy bars, and live entertainment houses such as Comic Lab, Amnesiacs Le Bar, Legend Live House, New K Channel, Kizmet…Chizmez Family KTV, Options Bar & Restaurant, Off the Grill, The Music Box, Crateri Cafe Lounge and Intensity KTV Bar & Restaurant. For every four empty pouches of Strepsils 6s or two boxes of Strepsils 12s presented in the venue, coupled with at least P100 to P300 food purchase, you enjoy discounts of up to 20 percent and special privileges such as drinks and 1-hour videoke room time. Detailed mechanics of the promo are posted on selected Mercury Drugstores in Manila.

Warm music at SM

MUSIC industry leader Casio fosters the spirit of giving to the underprivileged by joining hands with SM Foundation Inc (SMFI) in support of "Make a Child Happy: Share a Christmas Toy 2003". Proceeds from a series of holiday activities and entertainment highlights, like Christmas caroling at SM Malls, will go to orphans, abandoned babies, young victims of sexual abuse and other disadvantaged members of the community being assisted by the DSWD. Casio EMI participates by donating a portion of sales for every Casio keyboard sold from Dec. 1, 2003 to Jan. 30, 2004 to SMFI. Casio EMI also grants music scholarships to 10 of SMFI's beneficiaries, in the form of 12 sessions or one complete beginner's course on keyboard playing. Casio EMI, through Belrewmond Trading Corp, recently signed an MOA with SMFI at SM Bicutan. SMFI executives who were on hand to seal the partnership with Casio EMI on the project were SMFI executive directors Connie Angeles and Deborah Pe-Sy.

AIMS program here

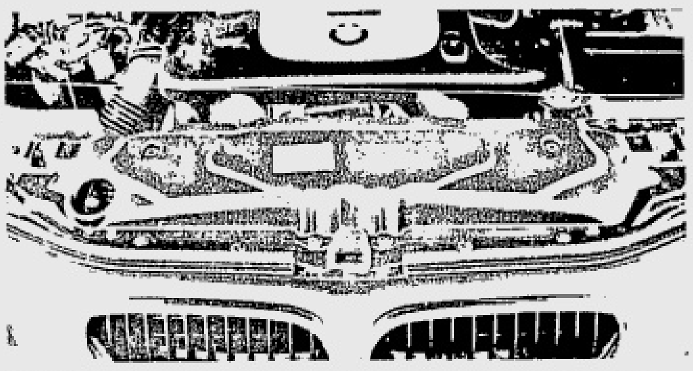
THE AUSTRALIAN Institute of Management Sciences (AIMS) brings its Master of Arts Management program to the Philippines to enable busy and highly mobile creative professionals-from the commercial arts, entertainment and cultural organizations-to earn an Australian degree through flexible learning delivery options: intensive face-to-face workshops with Australian faculty in the Philippines, via online learning or cross-enrollment in Singapore and Sydney. The program includes a study tour to Brisbane and Sydney to enable students to benchmark and network with the movers of Australia's arts and cultural organizations. The Master of Arts Management is planned to be available in 9 locations throughout Asia and Australia by end 2005. Arts management (a genuine alternative to an MBA designed for creative professionals) has become a new growth area for institutions in Australia. Enrollment in the Master of Arts Management is ongoing. Class starts in January 2004. For inquiries, call Gel or Sharon at 896-2358 or 896-2318, fax 896-2351 or e-mail programs@iame.edu.ph, or log on to www.aimanagement.com.au.

The 5 Series leaps forward

BMW's all-new mid-size sedan is bigger, better and different

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THE BMW 530d gets by on an average 6.9 liters per 100 kilometers, proving that dynamic driving and economy are no contradiction



PROVIDING an unprecedented 500 newton-meters of torque, this diesel direct-injection unit ensures spontaneous engine power

FEW cars evoke the passionate experience that comes with driving a BMW.

The latest 5 Series is no different and is one of the few cars to come our way recently that was truly fun and different.

It was a couple of weeks ago when BMW Philippines invited a few of us to get acquainted with the latest 5 Series. I immediately said yes without even bothering to ask about our itinerary (we eventually went to The Farm at San Benito in Lipa, Batangas, an equally excellent place to de-stress, but that's another story).

With its almost P4.5 million price tag, this is my only chance to discover what this latest 5 Series has to offer.

7 sparkling new BMWs

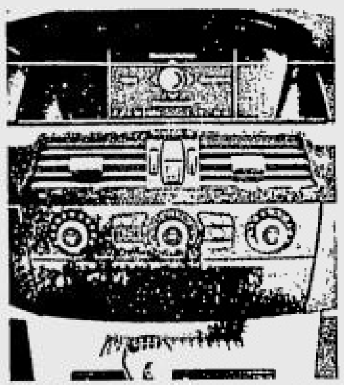
We drove seven sparkling new BMW 530d, which are all powered by a new 3-liter direct-injection straight six diesel engine (yes, it's diesel-fed). Each has an incredible 218 horsepower, quickness to sprint from 0 to 100 kph in 7.1 seconds, and an ability to reach a top speed of 245 kph—just 5 kph less than its gasoline counterpart, the BMW 530i.

The 530d comes with the 6HP26 transmission, a six-speed gearshift, which already made its debut in the BMW 730d.

But what immediately caught our attention was its new design, which combines the dynamism and sportiness of the 3 Series with the supremacy and presence of the 7 Series.

More seems to be the premise of BMW in coming out with the latest 5 Series as the sedan boasts more room, more equipment and more sophisticated technology.

WE let one of our big colleagues to get inside just to show how spacious the latest 5 Series' 520 liters of cargo space is



THE start page of the control display shows four main menus to set entertainment, navigation, communication, and climate controls

Interesting and distinctive

The latest 5 Series design is both interesting and distinctive. Consider its "eyebrow" lamp that leads to a hard line through the doors and into the rear lamp.

The grille halves are entirely different from its predecessors. They are larger and feature concavity beneath the nostrils.

The design of the latest 5 Series cockpit follows the new interior design philosophy of the 7 Series but boasts additional classic cockpit features.

"The double binnacle (or twin-hood instrument panel as others call it) took its influence from the 7 Series and for the first time, the iDrive controller also appears in the 5 Series," describes BMW Philippines corporate communications director Lito German.

The iDrive is packaged neatly in the center console with both the gearshifter and the parking-brake lever.

But unlike in the 7 Series, the iDrive now moves in four directions only (rather than eight) to control entertainment, navigation, communication and climate functions.

Original sports sedan

BMW's smaller 3 Series may be the bigger seller, but the 5 Series is the company's original sports sedan and the oldest nameplate in its lineup.

Since the 5 Series was introduced in 1975, BMW has completely overhauled its midline sedan five times.

The fifth generation is no different and for 2004, the 5 Series is redesigned down to its aluminum wheels for the first time in eight years.

BMW is one of the first automakers in the world to exploit the lightweight and high-strength aluminum alloys in its body frame.

In the latest 5 Series, the front side panels and the front lid are made of aluminum. The spring supports resting on the front axle springs and dampers are made of pressure-cast aluminum. The material used for the spring supports is an alloy made mainly of aluminum.

No wonder, the latest 5 Series' overall weight is down by as much as 75 kg.

Profitable variant

The engineers in Munich spared no expense in the redesign, perhaps because the 5 Series generates a quarter of BMW's profits worldwide.

Yet, the most important things haven't changed. The latest 5 Series remains a true sports sedan in any of its variations and all of them boasting precise handling, impressive power and outstanding brakes.

The 5 Series delivers just about everything you could ask for in a luxury sedan. It offers the features, comfort and convenience of full-size luxury sedans, the sporting character of smaller ones, and a better compromise between interior space and physical bulk," assured BMW Philippines president Mark Gilbert.

Significant achievement

Active Steering is perhaps the latest 5 Series' most significant new technical achievement.

This system reduces steering motion at low speeds (like when parking) and when negotiating tight turns on curved roads. But it also makes steering more direct at high speeds, allowing the driver to maneuver more quickly, safely and effectively.

In fact, during our speed runs, the latest 5-Series feels unfailingly glued to the pavement even when making quick lane changes.

Although there was not enough time for us to fully explore all the elements of the new 5 Series, it is patently obvious BMW has once again raised the bar in the premium-priced sedan segment with a mid-sized car that surpasses its predecessor in driving dynamics and enjoyment.

One final thought: this is a completely different car, depending on what color you select. Compared to the black, the silver, in my humble opinion, is the best color for the latest 5 Series as it shows the lines much better.

Woes and Wows of 2003

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

UNLESS it's your birthday today and therefore happy birthday to you my dear reader, there is no greeting more meaningful today, the first day of 2004, than "Happy New Year." You fail to greet anyone you meet, talk to on the phone, with a "Happy New Year" today, you must be from a different planet.

Actually, "happy" is almost a must-utter word for all of us three times a year: "Happy New Year," "Happy Easter" and "Happy Birthday." OK, include "Happy Anniversary" (wedding, founding day of a business establishment or anything that connotes immense importance). Why we say "Merry Christmas" and not "Happy Christmas" I don't know. But I do know that John Lennon, the irreverent Chief Beatle, used "Happy Christmas" and not "Merry Christmas" in a Christmas song that he had recorded before he was gunned down by a crazed fan on Dec. 8, 1980, in New York City. It sounded great just the same.

And so whether you are for GMA or FPJ, Ping or Roco, whether you will approve of my running or not in May, Happy New Year! The greeting is as old as civilization that to not say it today to anyone you both know and do not know could mean you are a remnant of the Stone Age. And so, all together now: Happy New Year!

* * *

My Woes & Wows of 2003:

Woe No. 1. DISORDER, DISOBEDIENCE, LAWLESSNESS, IN THE STREETS. Snarled traffic remained the biggest woe in 2003 in the metropolis. The U-Turn slots did some good but overall, Bayani Fernando was a failure in untangling traffic bottlenecks. His men were inconsistent in enforcing traffic laws; many were consistently invisible when their presence was badly needed, especially during rush hours and heavy downpour.

Woe No. 2. SUBIC HAVEN OF SUV SMUGGLERS. It is still an open secret that Subic has continued to be the "safest" entry point of smuggled SUVs, like Land Cruisers, Pajeros, Starex vans and Expeditions. The practice has been hurting the economy, tax wise, more than our vehicle companies. Will Mr. Parayno, the Subic boss, say something about this, please?

Woe No. 3. MAKOTO ONO LEAVING TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES. Ono-san was a lovable fellow that to see him leave us was like seeing comedian Dolphy retire from the movies. I had fun being a participant of the 1st Makoto Ono Golf Invitationals, which was actually a send-off party via a golf tournament for Ono-san hosted by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi at Alabang. But once I had that handshake to say goodbye to Ono-san after the awarding ceremonies, I knew it was a farewell to a great and honorable man who was instrumental in reinstalling Toyota back to its lofty position as No. 1 in the country. My only wish is to drink sake again in the near future with Ono-san, who was recalled by his mother office in Tokyo. *Sayonara*, Ono-san, and *domu arigato*!

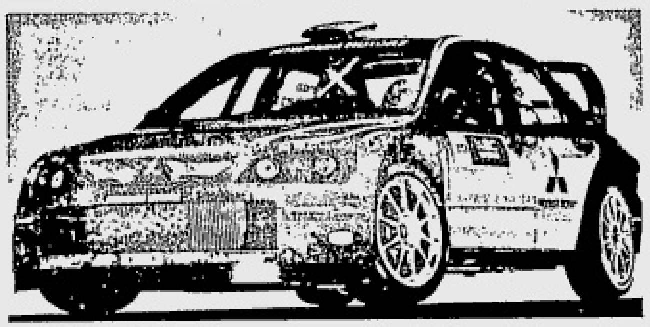
Wow No. 1. HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES CHRISTMAS PARTY. Not because I have discovered a great watering hole in Merk's Place at Greenbelt 3 in Makati that I have listed the Honda Party last month as a Big Wow of 2003. Sure, Merk's Place was a great host to the party, especially because of its "Bedroom Boys" band. But on top of that, the shebang allowed me to renew acquaintances with my fellow motoring journalists, whose wit and knowledge, not to mention their humor, kept me on my toes the whole year round. I've been in this business 13 straight seasons and I tell you, it's no joke grappling with the demands of the automotive times, what with a bevy of young pen-wielders, like Vernon B. Sarne and Dong Magsajo, to contend with. These kids, they are mostly armed with materials that could jolt you like a bolt of lightning almost each time they come up with their pieces. And this is not to mention their other talents—like Vernon, whose raspy voice brought the house down when he crooned "Because" by the Dave Clark Five that evening. Even Richard Merk, the owner of the joint and himself an internationally acclaimed jazz artist, swore Vernon is a big material for a singing career "should he decide to switch careers." And when will I see Dong M perform on his drums? That I will not miss, come rain or shine. Thanks again Arnel "Kabaleyan" Doria for inviting me to your party. Sure Arnel's Angels—Min, Tin Tin, Dansel and Shirley—were hits again that night but, hey, who said Butch "Elvis" Gamboa has lost his Pelvis moves? Wait till he unleashes more of his Elvis stuff on Jan. 9, when Toyota's Danny Isla calls him to do "Jailhouse Rock."

Wow No. 2. THE NEW YEAR TOYOTA BASH. Always wanting to be different from the rest, Toyota opened 2003 with a proverbial big bang by holding the Media Christmas Party at Rockwell's elegant and extremely popular yuppie, hip-hop and young-once hangout, Dish. With The Beatles as motif, Danny Isla's opening remarks was unique in that its sentences consisted mostly of titles of Beatles songs. Very creative, indeed. With the famous "Rockin' Revival" providing backup music, Danny Isla even belted out Beatles songs, a hitherto unknown talent to most of the motoring journalists (but not to Vernon and me, of course) present that night. Danny I is another proof to the saying that when you have a Beatlemaniac in your company, success is almost assured. Right Charles (Brewer) mate?

Wow No. 3. THE BIRTH OF THE REV CHALLENGE. No TV game show in the world about motoring can ever beat the mystic of The Rev Challenge, which set sail on Studio 23 to a rousing success. For Rene Nuñez, the champion, he had to top both the automotive trivia portion and actual driving contest to run away with the top prize, a handsome Kia Sedona. My hat's off to Bong Barrameda and Vernon B. Sarne for their creativity in coming up with such a fantastic show. In fact, I regret not having seen the show win a prize in The Henry Ford Awards. In my book, it should have garnered the Ford's Major Prize of the year.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Cool it, mate, when driving. This is usually the time of year when accidents happen when you least expect it.



LANCER WRC

Mitsubishi motor sports subsidiary unveils new Lancer WRC

MITSUBISHI Motors Corp. motor sports subsidiary, Mitsubishi Motors Motor Sports, recently unveiled the Mitsubishi Lancer WRC04, the car that will spearhead its 2004 FIA World Rally Championship campaign.

With a completely fresh design, the new car forms an integral part of a meticulously conceived long-term plan to build on Mitsubishi Motor's distinguished record in the World Rally Championship. It will compete on all 16 rounds of the series.

World Rally Car rules demand that the competition car is derived from a family of showroom cars, made in quantities of at least 25,000 per year.

The Lancer WRC04 is therefore based on the standard Lancer, but as its dramatic appearance indicates, it has little in common with previous Mitsubishi World Rally Cars.

Once again, it draws on Mitsubishi Motors' worldwide resources, combining Japanese and European capabilities, but it reflects a fresh design strategy and has been created by a new, youthful engineering team.

The project has been overseen by MMSP Ltd. managing director, Mario Fornaris at MMSP's base in Rugby, in Great Britain.

MMSP will treat the 2004 season as a learning process, in which it creates a car and a driving team ready for success in the years ahead.

For that reason, it has gone back to first principles to create a Lancer World Rally Car that is a sound basis for a rally winner in all conditions. 2004 will be an exercise first and foremost in laying the foundations for future success.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AIDA Sevilla Mendoza is out of the country. She will resume her column next week.

Revolutionizing the local market with battery doctors

TODAY more and more people are looking for business opportunities without the hassle of too many employees, inventory headaches and large rental space. Unfortunately, for most this would be just another pie in the sky...unless you happen to be a Battery Doctors operator.

No other business can offer unlimited earning potential like Battery Doctors. The Battery Doctors System was custom-tailored to provide entrepreneurs with a sound business model and working environment which enables them to earn as much as P5,000 from their first day of operations and up to P150,000 a month from discarded batteries.

Most comprehensive

Battery Doctors patented system is the most comprehensive and sophisticated battery management system available in the market today. Utilizing a revolutionary new product developed by ProTec International LLC, a US company awarded by the US government with financial grants to continue their research on environment-friendly technologies. The entry here in the Philippines of Battery Doctors System will revolutionize the country's multimillion-dollar automotive battery-manufacturing market sector.

Said Mike Sanchez, general manager of Maxx-Energie Ventures Corp., the exclusive distributor for Battery Doctors in the country: "You don't need to be a mechanic or have any sales experience to operate a Battery Doctors business. You can start this business from your garage or your workshop full time or part time. All you need to do is learn to use our products, equipment and the techniques outlined in our manuals. As an added incentive, an operator would also be given a free one-week comprehensive hands-on traning by MEVC."

Battery life extender

The key ingredient in Battery Doctors arsenal is Longa-Batt Battery Life Extender. Longa-Batt automatically dissolves the hard sulphate crystals that have formed in the lead plates and prevents them from sulphating the plates again. Once treated with the powerful Longa-Batt, ProCharge Smart Charger is then used to charge and recondition the batteries.

ProCharge is a microprocessor controlled battery charger with Battery Diagnostics System. This system is fully automatic, preventing overcharging and deterioration of very brittle plates. This gentle charging process is essential for the battery to regain its lost power.

After the above process, each battery is tested with the AutoTest Electronics Analyzer. The analyzer is a computerized battery tester with advanced battery diagnostics system. It can determine battery condition in 15 seconds or less. The system tests the battery performance as well as the individual internal resistance of each battery. This is a key process to determine if a battery has fully reconditioned and recouped its original power.

Warranty

Sanchez also said all batteries that undergo this program come with a warranty, which is determined individually depending on the condition of the battery after the reconditioning process."

Said Sanchez: "We have so much confidence in our system that we do not hesitate to invest in you. The more batteries you recondition and sell, the higher your profit. With Maxx-Energie Ventures guiding you right from the start with complete instructional video and manual products and equipment, you are guaranteed to increase your chances of success. As a Battery Doctors operator, you will experience continued profitability and enjoy competitive edge."

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Gov't autos on a new 'diet' to soup up emissions

By Tessa R. Salazar

The immediate effect of the use of biodiesel is the scent emanating from the vehicle's exhaust likened to that of popcorn or French fries

MAKE them "eat" vegetable and waste oil along with their regular "diet" of fossil fuels. This way, they will run more efficiently and emit less pollutants.

That's exactly what government vehicles running on diesel will start "eating" once a memo circular becomes final and executory. The goal is to mix in at least one percent biodiesel to a full tank of diesel.

Stable energy supply

Energy Undersecretary Ed Mañalac announced on Dec. 11 in Manila this directive in a workshop on the use of biodiesel and LPG for transport. This initiative is in cooperation with the United States' Department of Energy and the United States Agency for International Development.

He stressed the DoE's mission was to ensure a stable and secure energy supply for the country.

Said Mañalac: "The DoE had decided to mandate the CME (coco methyl ester) blend diesel use for all government vehicles. We have made several tests on the performance and emission side."

The circular, he said, will be coming out soon.

Automotive experts who did a series of tests said biodiesel would help reduce emission. Tests results indicate that at higher engine speeds which are normal vehicle accelerating ranges (2,500-3,000 rpm), one percent CME blends produced less emission than the first low sulfur diesel (LSD) run, ranging from 7 to 27 percent black smoke reduction.

These loaded driving ranges simulate uphill driving conditions.

At lower engine speeds between 2,000 and 2,250 rpm, the use of one percent CME blend showed increased black smoke emission, ranging between 2 and 13 percent as compared with the first LSD run. However, these engine speeds occur only briefly during the course of acceleration where drivers tend to shift in the higher rpm ranges to take advantage of the optimum torque range in the next gear shift. The example cited was 2,500 rpm and above.

Tests have also proven adding one percent biodiesel even produces 2 to 3 percent increase in engine power.

Ultimately, this translates to less fuel used for the same load transported in the same distance.

Today, most of the country's oil imports, which amounts to almost 300,000 barrels a day, goes to the transport sector.

Alternative fuels

The development of alternative fuels—of which biodiesel belongs—is said to help achieve the country's self-sufficiency target and help clean the air.

Plant or waste oil such as soybean and rapeseedoils can be sources of biodiesel. Coconut oil, subjected to a process called esterification and transformed into CME is also a good clean form of fuel.

Biodiesel is nontoxic and free of sulfur.

The scent of fries

The immediate effect of the use of biodiesel is the scent emanating from the vehicle's exhaust likened to that of popcorn or French fries.

CME can be used as a diesel blend for public utility vehicles and likewise as lubricant for two-stroke motorcycle engines.

Mañalac said the use of CME would be feasible in the Philippines. "It is renewable, we can plant and replant coconuts," he added.

"We have two iniatives for CME: One is the CME blend for diesel engines and the use of CME for the 2T lubricants being used by tricycles."

Biodiesel proponents said several bus organizations and jeepney transport groups are using biodiesel almost a year now to help reduce smoke emissions.

The supply of CME will be delivered initially to government agencies with their own pumps in their motorpool.

Mañalac said it would be up to those agencies that still get their supply of diesel from regular gas stations, how they would source their CME supplies.

Auto gas gains ground

Other sources of fuel such as autogas are being used by the private sector.

As part of the government's advocacy program, the Development Bank of the Philippines has converted 10 of its service vehicles to run on auto gas, and has purchased another 10 vehicles from Toyota.

Several transport companies have also expressed interest in converting their fleets to auto gas and several auto gas installers and conversion kit suppliers have also set up business in the country in response to this potential demand.

In Metro Manila, Petron has inaugurated the first publicly available auto gas dispensing station in Pasig City.

The government has recommended the inclusion of auto gas conversion shops, assembly facilities, dispensing stations and fleet operations in the 2004 investments priorities plans. This would entitle them to a six-year income-tax holiday.

The government is working on the reductions in import duties on autogas components. The government hopes that in 2004, autogas standards could be adopted and implemented.

Another project the government is working on is the development of compressed natural gas especially with the discovery of the large gas field in Palawan (Malampaya). Arrangements with operators like Shell and Texaco and Philippine National Oil Corp. are being made to build facilities in Batangas to act as a mother station.

The dispensing stations would be handled by Pilipinas Shell. Mañalac said that by 2004, the government hopes to see at least 100 CNG buses plying the Batangas-Manila route.

POWER HUNGRY?
Devour!
ISUZU
D-MAX
The New ISUZU D-MAX
Satisfy Your Hunger
D ESEL UP!
2H
4H
4L
SHIFT ON THE FLY (4X4 ONLY) allows driver to shift from 2H to 4H and vice versa, essential for anytime on road, off-road, or steep road readiness
ERGONOMIC DASHBOARD WITH STYLISH CENTER PANEL for a fresh look
SPACIOUS CABIN gives much needed legroom and headroom for added comfort and flexibility
RACK AND PINION STEERING SYSTEM for precise steering response
UNPARALLELED CHASSIS STRENGTH armored with big frames and substantial cross members for stability even with heavy loads
With EXTENSIVE INTERIOR SPACE, a vehicle to beat in terms of elegance and luxury

METRO MANILA ALABANG Tel: (02) 8071788 • COMMONWEALTH Tel: (02) 9522760 • EDSA Tel: (02) 4104837 • MAKATI Tel: (02) 8938950 • MANILA Tel: (02) 5624001 • PASIG Tel: (02) 9105123 • QUEZON AVENUE Tel: (02) 9203174 LUZON BATANGAS Tel: (043) 4056669 • BULACAN Tel: (044) 7952342 • CABANATUAN Tel: (044) 4638215 • CAVITE Tel: (046) 4722145 • ISABELA Tel: (078) 6522030 • PAMPANGA Tel: (045) 8601210 • PANGASINAN Tel: (075) 5220358 • SAN PABLO Tel: (049) 5629996 VISMIN BACOLOD Tel: (034) 4110778 • CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel: (08822) 728344 • CEBU Tel: (032) 2340471 • DAVAO Tel: (082) 2973344 • MANDAUE Tel: (032) 3463090

Manufactured and distributed by ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Tel. No. (049) 5410224 • Fax Nos. 8420202, (049) 5410333

ISUZU
Your responsible partner

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Sunset party launches Nasugbu hideaway

ROXACO Land Corp.'s Pedrosa E. Roxas welcoming the invitees

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

THE UNBEATABLE and glorious Batangas sunset was the backdrop for "Terrazas Sunset," the bash that opened the gorgeous, upscale Terrazas de Punta Fuego beach clubhouse, *palanggas*.

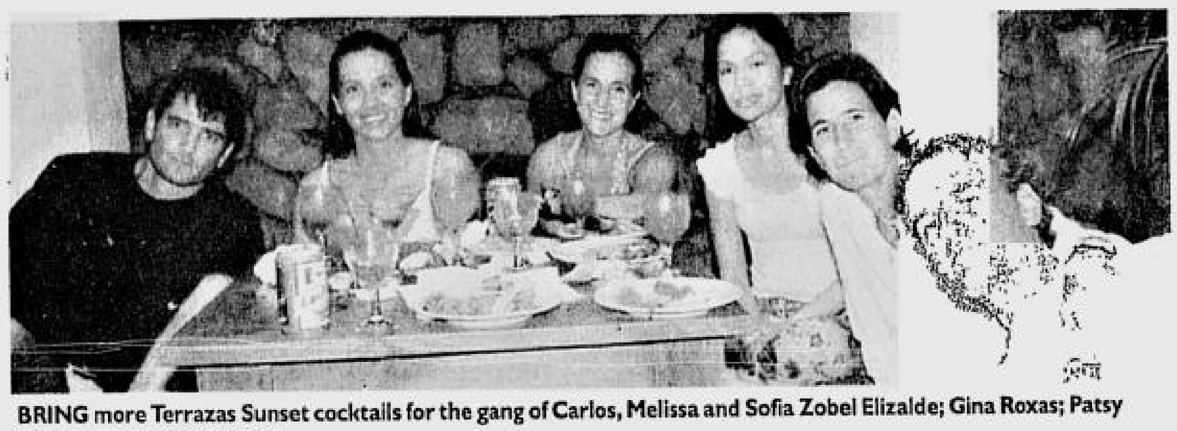
Leading the inauguration were such hot names as **Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr.** of Landco Pacific Corporation and **Pedro Roxas** of Roxaco Land Corporation who, together with the Pedrosa famille of landowners, are the developers. They proudly welcomed the lot owners, Club Punta Fuego exclusive members and chichi guests after the blessing and Mass led by Monsignor **Augusto Pedrosa.**

The clubhouse, built as a cluster of structures on different levels, turned in the sunset's golden colors. The Nasugbu coastline later gave off a soft moon glow, which highlighted the clubhouse's Mediterranean architecture with Asian touches. The swimming pool shimmered like an emerald jewel with multicolored flowers floating on its surface.

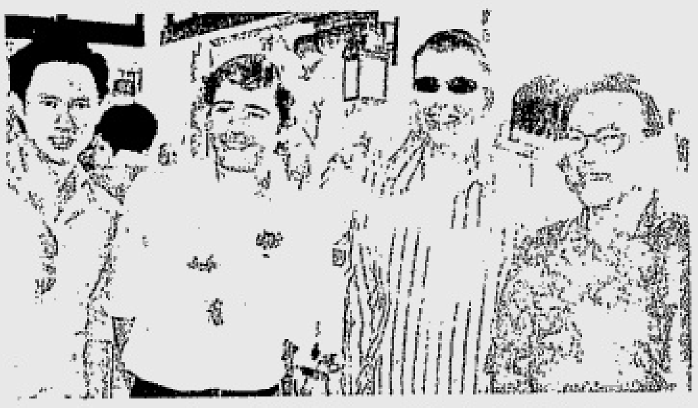
Club Punta Fuego's young, energetic and handsome general manager, **Ignacio Gandarias,** welcomed the invitees, dahlings. Later, the Tribe of Levi band set the pace of the party, while everyone sipped the special offering of Premier Wines as well as the signature cocktail, "Terrazas Sunset," a refreshing, heady concoction of citrus juices, grenaline and and the wicked ultra-premium Patron Tequila.

The guests toured the cabanas, resto, boardwalk, pool, beach and game room. The spacious locker rooms were tastefully designed with Asian furniture and decorative pieces. It was fun, *palanggas*, watching proud dads taking photos of their cute little tykes posing on top of decorative stone turtles that

SUNSET/ C2



BRING more Terrazas Sunset cocktails for the gang of Carlos, Melissa and Sofia Zobel Elizalde; Gina Roxas; Patsy Zobel; and Alonso Halffter



STEVEN Tan, handsome Club GM Ignacio Gandarias, John Cogul and Dennis Deceni

every juicy detail
G

Woman in the home

LUNCH
Stepha

ILLUSTRATIONS STEPH BRAVO

By Cynthia O. Valdes
Contributor

Ever since "housewife" has come to be appended with such unpalatable antecedents as "plain" and "timid," the more modern woman who manages a home has desperately scrounged around for a more acceptable word.

I prefer "manager" because there seems to be a lot of good management involved in keeping a household efficiently running.

There are the bills to pay, banking (not that I check my bank statements), supermarket days, sitting with hubby at mealtimes (I remember the lady who wrote that she could've taken another college degree with all the time she spent sitting with her hubby at the table), managing daughter's (she is a special child) schedules for daily walks, pottery lessons, visits to friends' homes, checking out the town center for yet another stuffed toy, not to miss Saturday morning garage sales, keeping track of grandchildren's schedules for tutorials, swimming lessons, daily homework (to check and monitor); planning the meals with the kitchen staff; making sure the maids don't get too rowdy (they always seem to be having a ball in the kitchen—too good is what I am); squeezing in time for reading and writing; working in exercise time at the gym…whew!

Cooking

I have a little ceramic plaque in my kitchen that says: "Kissing don't last, cookin' do". Yes, we still kiss but hardly in the same way we used to (if you know what I mean). Loving, by its very nature, involves nurture and nurture involves feeding. Although I don't really cook myself now, I am still involved in the food preparations in my home.

It takes only a little effort, to make sure that the food, as it gets to the table is freshly cooked and "gourmet quality". With rising prices of goods, we are all called upon to be frugal. Learn to go to the wet market. Make sure to cook just enough for the household or prepare to be creative with leftovers.

Good management skills are needed to keep a household efficiently running

Marivic, my cook, has an exuberant personality that spills over into her cooking. She always prepares too much. However, I am patient with her because I know she does not throw anything away. She can turn leftover spaghetti sauce into what can pass for "Eggplant Parmigianna" (or at least its closest cousin). Leftover chicken becomes my husband's sandwich the following day.

Marivic and the rest of the gang, together with the driver, maintain a vegetable garden in the empty lot beside our house. It is a source of *alugbati, kangkong,* okra, *pechay, malunggay* and other ingredients that go into a Visayan (Bacolod-style) *laswa*.

The zinnias in our garden also keep our home in flowers, colorful ones that no money can buy (the original seeds that they keep propagating originally came from a packet).

We have also managed to build an efficient composting system: wet garbage into compost pit wherein goes a layer of soil and all the garden sweepings. It keeps our garden supplied with rich loamy top soil.

Sunday dinners

Gathering family for Sunday lunch or dinner has been a longtime practice in our home. Therefore, I go to market on Sunday mornings. It's where you can get "fresh" and variety. And believe it or not, it's still the cheapest place to shop. I never have a fixed menu in mind when I go to market. I will cook what I find fresh, challenging and interesting.

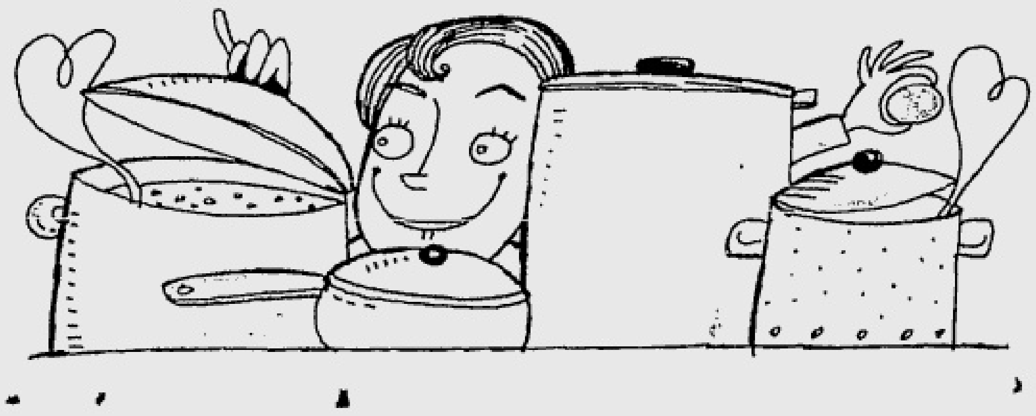
If the kenche is the right size with lots of "litid" (ligament), it will make a nice *nilaga* much better that the supermarket "shank" will. Just cook it slowly, softening the meat really well in a "Le Creuset" cooker. Not to forget the hambone (makes all the difference in the world), potatoes, pechay and cabbage.

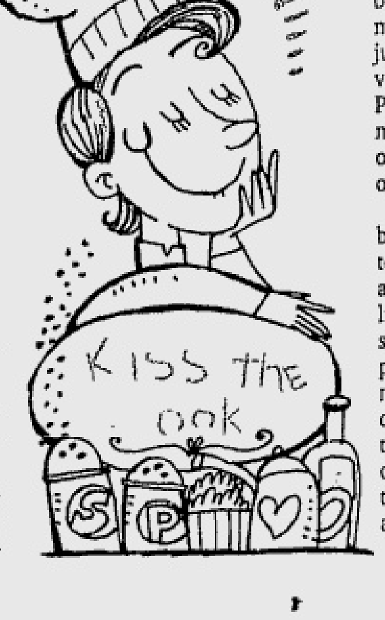
Your *suki* will take the striploin off the bone for you. It will have just the right edge of fat that you can further trim off if you happen to be on a low-cholesterol diet. Marinate in Kikoman, fry in olive oil and smother with onions. If you want ground sirloin with little or no fat, choose the meat you want and have it ground, or double grind for good measure.

The pork *kasim* is nice and pink if it's fresh, much better than the supermarket's day-old pork. Your butcher will 'gladly slice it to make a nice Binagoongan. Add just the right amount of water, vinegar, garlic and *bagoong* from Pangasinan. Half of the *liempo* makes the Lechon Kawali. The other half goes into the Sinigang or Pinakbet.

If you like pork chops, fry them breaded. Trim off the skin, cut into small pieces and boil in water and salt, deep fry for *chicharon* like Lola used to make. Live shrimps will make gambas or plain *halabos*; fresh squid, calamares. Make your own *dulong* dip. Clean it well in running water and sauté in garlic and olive oil. The right size lapu-lapu, firm to the touch (with the *hasang* really red) will do for a good Es

WOMAN/ C2





HOT new guards. Landco Pacific Corp.'s Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Alfredo Roca, brothers Patxi and Santi Elizalde

THE OLD guard. Carlos, Ramon, Alberto and Msgr. Augusto Pedrosa with Lita P. Hidalgo (second from right)

PARTYING dudes. Axel Brander, Flo Eibinger and Niki Renner

Sunset party launches Nasugbu hideaway

From page C1

TERRAZAS de Punta Fuego all aglow in lights

spewed water into the individual bubblers.

Chow time had everyone rushing to the buffet tables sumptuous filled with different types of paella. Then it was rock-the-floor time with R & B hits, rap and hip-hop tunes being played. Others tested their vocal prowess in the KTV room as they vied for their 15 minutes of fame. Frankly, dahlings, I don't think anyone made the grade.

Needless to say, dahlings, beaming from ear to ear was the Mayor of Nasugbu, **Raymund Apacible**, and his charmante wife, **Carla**. Also beaming proudly was the clubhouse's architect, **Meloy Casas**, of the Recio + Casas architectural firm, who was with his brother, **Ricky Casas**, and daughter, **Paula**.

The Fil Barcelo rah! rah! team, Club Punta Fuego's management company, came in full force, headed by president and CEO, **John Cogul**, and food and beverage director, **Alfredo Roca**, natch.

Yes, *palanggas*, Terrazas de Punta Fuego is all about fun, famille, home, relaxation, building memories of lazy days in the sun and fun-filled afternoons watching the breathtaking Batangas sunset by the beaches of Nasugbu.

Those interested to buy Terrazas lots can be nominated for an associate membership in Club Punta Fuego, which allows them to use the clubhouse facilities in both Peninsula and Terrazas de Punta Fuego. It's a dream place for those whose has the cash. Mortals like us can stick to Matabungkay and Boracay.

SITTING it out. Ramon Arnaiz, Felisa Sison, Carlos Pedrosa, and Nasugbu's first couple, mayor Raymond Apacible with wife Carla

Fab debut

The clear new moon of a recent Saturday night saw the wonderful beginning of a new life for one of Manille's Five Loveliest last year, **Isabel Floirendo Lagdameo**, daughter of businessman **Tonet Lagdameo** and working socialite **Linda Floirendo-Lagdameo**.

The hip set had a blast. They attacked the yummy buffet table from the famille-owned deli-cafe and restaurant, Je Suis Gourmand in Fort Bonifacio, with waiters from Via Mare and flowers everywhere the Lagdameo residence in Dasmarinas Village. The flowers were arranged by the debutante's mom herself.

The swinging affair was an exhilarating

SUNSET/ C3

blow by blow

Woman in the home

From page C1

cabeche. Together with a sweet and sour sauce (you can use Mama Sita, Mother's Best or McCormick packaged sauces if that will make it easier), yellow capsicum and orange carrots make a nice color-coordinated topping.

Halaan can be served sautéed in olive oil and Taiwanese garlic. Don't forget the parsley. Or you can add spaghettini, fettucini, tagliatelle, farfalle or what have you and white wine to make it into a (prego) Vongole! Lots of possibilities.

Irreplaceable bonding

You won't regret having gotten out of bed on a rainy day. At less than half what it would cost to eat in a restaurant, you can gather the family together and keep up with one another's activities, shindigs, capers or what have you. The bonding that takes place is irreplaceable.

Part of the fun and satisfaction is the loving approval of an appreciative family for the wife, the mother, mother-in-law, grandma or whatever name she is called. She is the moving spirit behind close family ties.

When I was younger, an incredulous friend in Bacolod told me, "What, you make your own bread?! Your sons will not be happily married. None of your daughters-in-law will ever be able to compete with you."

I have found out that's not quite true. My sons simply love their Mom for some things and their wives for other things. My daughters-in-law are all outstanding in their own individual and unique ways.

A good woman builds her home with wisdom, discernment, skill, knowledge and intelligence. Indeed, the Bible says in Proverbs 31:27, "She watches over the ways of her household." It just can't have gone out of style.

'Beasts' in a beauty salon

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

She sensed something fishy when the staff wouldn't give her an official receipt

IT pays to be aware of current prices of services in beauty salons to avoid being victimized by hairdressers who overprice customers, particularly when the salon owner is not around.

This happened to letter-sender E. Velasquez who related her experience to warn consumers.

She went to a hair treatment center on the fifth floor of a shopping mall where two gay hairdressers wasted no time in recommending to her the Bonacure treatment priced at P1,500. She compared the price to her previous treatments when her hair was shorter, and thought the price quoted by the hairdressers was reasonable enough, since her hair was longer.

When she was about to be shampooed, however, she saw the salon price list and found that the Bonacure treatment was P1,000 maximum. Aware of her discovery, the attending hairdresser immediately said it was an old list and the price they were charging her was the updated one.

He became over-solicitous after that, even giving her a free hair cellophane treatment, plus free blow dry that would otherwise cost her an additional P500.

Velasquez sensed something fishy was going on when the hairdressers wouldn't give her an official receipt for her payment. She also discovered later that the price of a Bonacure treatment in the other salons was about P990.

As requested by Velasquez, we reported the case to the public affairs officer of the shopping mall where the salon was located. The owner of the beauty salon was duly informed about the incident.

Here's the response of the owner: "We are shocked to know we have in-house criminals in our salon who have been over-pricing customers, and we were shocked to know that they were pocketing the sales. We also verified in the computer that the name of Ms. E. Velasquez was not in the customer list on that date. Per our course of action, the officer-in-charge, cashier and hairdresser were fired. The errant hairdresser was fined P5,000."

More reactions to TV ads

Kjell Aboy, psychology student of Ateneo de Davao University, described the criticisms of readers to certain radio-television advertisements (this column, Dec. 18) as "amusing". We quote from his letter:

"The use of the term *pare* (for women) is acceptable, especially for majority of today's female adolescents. Some (of them) even appreciate being called *pare* by their male friends, as it also connotes acceptance and equality of stature. The word, as used by males towards their female friends, is already considered a term for friendship and camaraderie."

Aboy added that morality and ethics in TV ads was a touchy issue, but he said ad designers were careful in considering the moral and ethical implications of ads. He said we should be aware of today's socio-psychological realities, and try to see if our standards of morality and ethics were in touch with the times.

"What we should try to change is the way our social environment works, and not to comment on the ads alone. More often than not, the ads are just reflections of what is happening in our society and, because of that, many people can relate to them," he concluded.

Bar code glitch

Our letter-writer (name withheld on request, so we will call her Ms. Shopper) advises shoppers to check price tags against bar code readings. She said she bought in a supermarket a 340 g can of Lysol Air Freshener with a price tag of P169.50. When it passed the bar code machine, the price that registered on the screen was P200.50.

Ms. Shopper reported the price discrepancy to the supermarket manager. The error was verified and she got her P30 refund, but she said she was not satisfied. "The manager was not even alarmed at the error. I pity other consumers who may have the same experience, but are not aware of it."

Incidentally, a frequent shopper praised the supervisor of Robinson's supermarket, Ermita Branch, for cautioning a bag boy against placing shopping bags on the floor after they have been paid for by a customer.

She said, apparently, the latest trick of thieves is to steal bags of grocery that had been paid for and waiting to be collected by their owner or to be carried by the bag boy for the customer. While both customer and bagger are distracted, the thieves would casually pass by and pick up bags deposited on the floor. "The passing supervisor was warning the bagger to be vigilant against those thieves just waiting for a chance to snatch unattended shopping bags," the frequent shopper noted.

Corned buffalo?

Phil Gistrame asked, "Why the words beef and/or buffalo in the label of a local brand of corned beef? Is the use of and/or just plain semantics, or does it mean we are eating buffalo (carabao, I suppose) meat sometimes, or beef at another time."

We called the consumer information office of the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) for the answer. Like Mr. Gistrame, we wondered also if buffalo was another term for carabao meat. According to the NMIC spokesman, buffalo meat, as specified on the corned beef label, is one of the ingredients used by some local corned beef manufacturers. It is added to beef meat, or meat from cows.

The NMIC spokesperson explained further that buffalo was different from carabao. It had bigger horns, for one thing. He added that buffalo meat used by local meat processors were imported, mostly from India.

For further explanation, call NMIC consumer information office, tel. 9247980 or write to NMIC, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City 1101.

Email author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

ANELA Reye with Lala Rosales

PARTY time. Rina Montemayor, Lian Joaquino and Sophie Domingo

HOT DJs of the night. JM Lagdameo and Raul Manzano

ALL in the family. Izzy's cousin Gabbi Floirendo with Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo and Caterina Lagdameo

THE GANG. (Standing) Regine Lejano, Tricie Angeles and Izzy; (seated) Lia Cruz, Miki de Guzman, Atti Gaite and Manel Dionisio

Sunset party launches Nasugbu hideaway

FUN PACK. (Standing) Reena and Isabel Lagdameo withTina Trillana; (seated) Iya Guingona and Mai-Mai Cojuangco

From page C2

event. Isabel, "Izzy" to her pals, has a knack for entertaining, which she got from her mom. She looked great in her chartreuse Joe Salazar cocktail creation. What else could you expect from a coming-of-age party of a sophisticated but fun-loving teen like her?

Breezing in early were **Reena Lagdameo, Tina Trillana, Iya Guingona,** and **Mai Mai Cojuangco,** who left shortly to go back to Florence. Multi-faceted businessman **Raul Manzano** wished the celebrator the best of everything. Izzy jetted back days later to the US for studies at the upscale Smith College, no less, *palanggas*.

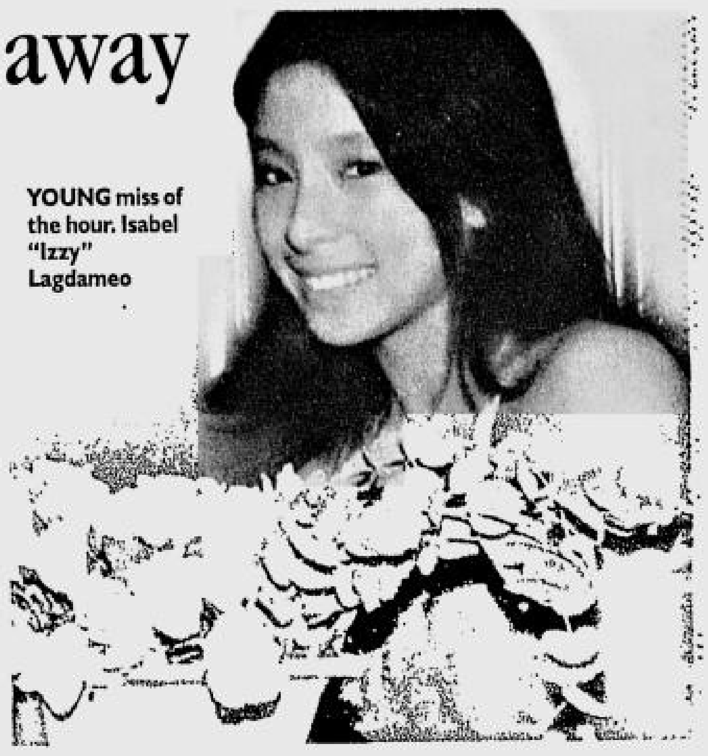
By 9 p.m., the place was rocking with Izzy's gang partying no end: **Tricia Angeles, Maica Bunag, Sophie Domingo, Lian Joaquino, Rina Montemayor, Anela Reyes, Lala Rosales** and **Jill Sto. Domingo.**

Shaking the dance floor were **Fernan Mabanta, Gerovy King, Monica Floirendo** (in town from her studies in London), and **Georgina Wilson. Quito Lopez, Van Mayuga, Carlo Laurel, Gabbi Floirendo** and **Dawn, JM, Catty** and **Cary Lagdameo** danced to fast-paced sounds of today that played like forever.

THE PALS. Michelle Pamintuan, Monica Floirendo, Izzy and Georgina Wilson

For the next couple of years, anyway, Izzy, who came back for her brother's wedding and the holidays, will be Cosmo Manille's loss and Massachusetts' gain.

(Ed's Note: Next week, Mr. Arcache's column will return to its regular Tuesday and Friday sked.)



YOUNG miss of the hour. Isabel "Izzy" Lagdameo

tell me more

See connectivity in a new light

GET the new Nokia 1100 on Globe and relish your mobile lifestyle in a whole new light with its built-in flashlight. Even better, you can get this new handset on G-Plans or as a prepaid phone kit.

Find out why more people are on G-Plans than any other mobile service when you get this bright phone free with the G-Text 500 Plan or any other G-Plan.

This deal becomes even more delightful with the boost of the G-Plan opti-SIM, which gives your phone space for 750 phonebook entries, 100 messages and a G-Plan exclusive, myOrganizer.

The other half of this two-rific deal is, you may also get the Nokia 1100 for only P6,390 on Globe Prepaid Phonekit. This comes with the X-treme Memory SIM, which gives you P100 worth of initial load value for free.

Nokia 1100 has a large display, soft and sleek silicone keymat with large keys, easy-to-use interface and selectable font size.

Its handy messaging features, like SMS distribution list, SMS chat, Pilipino Predictive Text Input and SMS Speed Dialing, also cut your messaging routine in half.

The Nokia 1100 is the ultimate choice for those who make texting a way of life, since the phone features a durable cover, anti-slip sides and long talk time and standby time powered by Nokia Battery BL-5C.

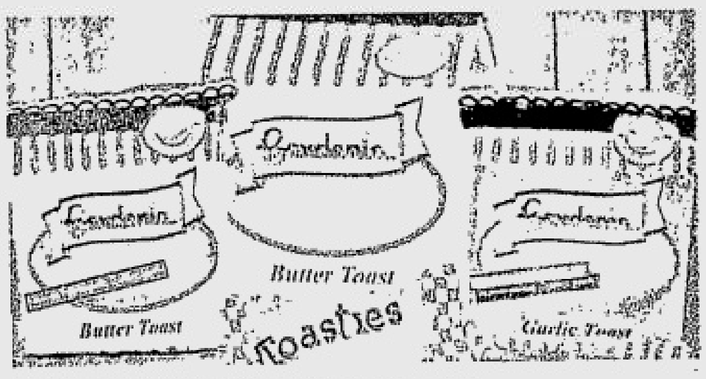
With this new battery, your talk time extends up to more than 4 hours, while your standby time is stretched to more than 400 hours.

It also has extra phone memory for your 50 favorite text messages, conference call capability, built-in games, alarm, timer and full-size animated screensaver.

Fruit frosts in four flavors

TASTE the bounty of the Christmas season as Seattle's Best Coffee introduces its latest offering: Christmas Fruit Frosts in four refreshing flavors: Mango, Citrus Passion, Four Seasons and Soursop (guyabano). Every two orders of Fruit Frosts entitles customers to pick prizes such as the new sleek Motorola C350 or a free upsize of the next fruit frost purchase. Seattle's Best Coffee's has new branches in Emerald Avenue, Ortigas and Cybermall in Eastwood, with new branches to open in Baguio, Katipunan and Subic.

SEATTLE'S BEST



NIBBLE AWAY WITH TOAST BREADS
Gardenia Bakeries offers toast breads in three variants. These are Toasties, bite-size toasts with the flavor of real butter sprinkled with sugar; the 2-slice pack Butter Toast; and Garlic Toast sprinkled with parsley. Toast bread creates a balance between flavors, be it with the bittersweet taste of coffee or the sweet-spicy flavor of pasta dishes.

Breakfast in bed with tasty spreads

YOUR parents are definitely going to be at a loss when you start serving them breakfast in bed.

But while serving one is portrayed as an elaborate ordeal, you really do not need to exert all your effort and energy to show your parents how much you appreciate them. It doesn't have to be a five-course meal; 10 minutes is usually all it takes to pull the whole thing off.

Assembling the right items is the key: a cup of instant cappuccino, a couple of fresh muffins, a glass of fruit juice, and sliced bread rolls topped with Crumpy chocolate hazelnut spread sprinkled with some dried fruit.

Parents will be surprised with how good a little Crumpy spread on a roll tastes, but of course, you knew that all along. If you want to give them an extra dose of chocolate, try using it as a dip for their favorite fruit.

Apples, bananas and strawberries work particularly well, and you can even add variations since most grocery stores carry Crumpy in four flavors—Chocolate, Banana, Nut and Duo (Chocolate and Hazelnut combined).

It's these little acts of kindness that make life sweet.

ANELA Reye with Lala Rosales

PARTY time. Rina Montemayor, Lian Joaquino and Sophie Domingo

HOT DJs of the night. JM Lagdameo and Raul Manzano

ALL in the family. Izzy's cousin Gabbi Floirendo with Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo and Caterina Lagdameo

THE GANG. (Standing) Regine Lejano, Tricie Angeles and Izzy; (seated) Lia Cruz, Miki de Guzman, Atti Gaite and Manel Dionisio

Sunset party launches Nasugbu hideaway

FUN PACK. (Standing) Reena and Isabel Lagdameo withTina Trillana; (seated) Iya Guingona and Mai-Mai Cojuangco

From page C2

event. Isabel, "Izzy" to her pals, has a knack for entertaining, which she got from her mom. She looked great in her chartreuse **Joe Salazar** cocktail creation. What else could you expect from a coming-of-age party of a sophisticated but fun-loving teen like her?

Breezing in early were **Reena Lagdameo, Tina Trillana, Iya Guingona,** and **Mai Mai Cojuangco**, who left shortly to go back to Florence. Multi-faceted businessman **Raul Manzano** wished the celebrator the best of everything. Izzy jetted back days later to the US for studies at the upscale Smith College, no less, *palanggas*.

By 9 p.m., the place was rocking with Izzy's gang partying no end: **Tricia Angeles, Maica Bunag, Sophie Domingo, Lian Joaquino, Rina Montemayor, Anela Reyes, Lala Rosales** and **Jill Sto. Domingo.**

Shaking the dance floor were **Fernan Mabanta, Gerovy King, Monica Floirendo** (in town from her studies in London), and **Georgina Wilson. Quito Lopez, Van Mayuga, Carlo Laurel, Gabbi Floirendo** and **Dawn, JM, Catty** and **Cary Lagdameo** danced to fast-paced sounds of today that played like forever.

THE PALS. Michelle Pamintuan, Monica Floirendo, Izzy and Georgina Wilson

For the next couple of years, anyway, Izzy, who came back for her brother's wedding and the holidays, will be Cosmo Manille's loss and Massachusetts' gain.

(Ed's Note: Next week, Mr. Arcache's column will return to its regular Tuesday and Friday sked.)

YOUNG miss of the hour. Isabel "Izzy" Lagdameo

tell me more

See connectivity in a new light

GET the new Nokia 1100 on Globe and relish your mobile lifestyle in a whole new light with its built-in flashlight. Even better, you can get this new handset on G-Plans or as a prepaid phone kit.

Find out why more people are on G-Plans than any other mobile service when you get this bright phone free with the G-Text 500 Plan or any other G-Plan.

This deal becomes even more delightful with the boost of the G-Plan opti-SIM, which gives your phone space for 750 phonebook entries, 100 messages and a G-Plan exclusive, myOrganizer.

The other half of this two-rific deal is, you may also get the Nokia 1100 for only P6,390 on Globe Prepaid Phonekit. This comes with the X-treme Memory SIM, which gives you P100 worth of initial load value for free.

Nokia 1100 has a large display, soft and sleek silicone keymat with large keys, easy-to-use interface and selectable font size.

Its handy messaging features, like SMS distribution list, SMS chat, Pilipino Predictive Text Input and SMS Speed Dialing, also cut your messaging routine in half.

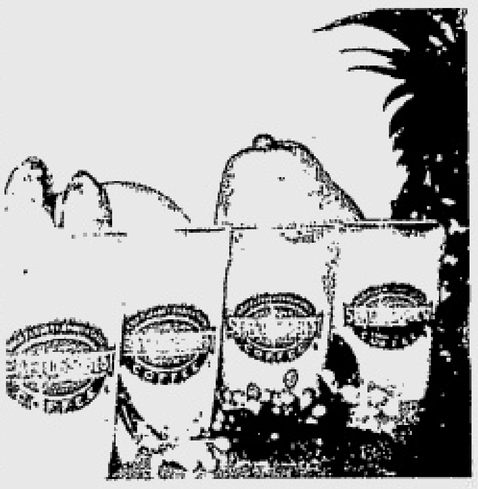
The Nokia 1100 is the ultimate choice for those who make texting a way of life, since the phone features a durable cover, anti-slip sides and long talk time and standby time powered by Nokia Battery BL-5C.

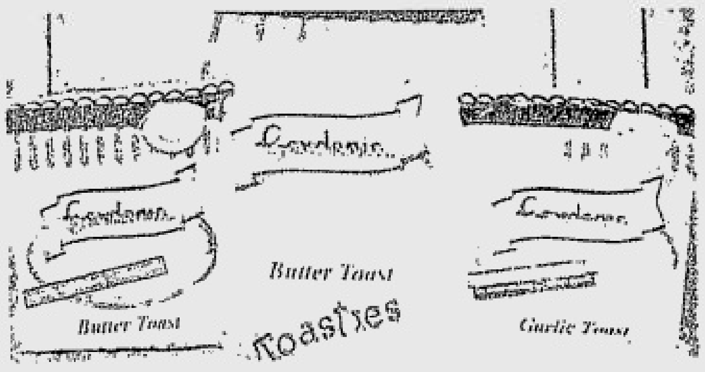
With this new battery, your talk time extends up to more than 4 hours, while your standby time is stretched to more than 400 hours.

It also has extra phone memory for your 50 favorite text messages, conference call capability, built-in games, alarm, timer and full-size animated screensaver.

Fruit frosts in four flavors

TASTE the bounty of the Christmas season as Seattle's Best Coffee introduces its latest offering: Christmas Fruit Frosts in four refreshing flavors: Mango, Citrus Passion, Four Seasons and Soursop (guyabano). Every two orders of Fruit Frosts entitles customers to pick prizes such as the new sleek Motorola C350 or a free upsize of the next fruit frost purchase. Seattle's Best Coffee's has new branches in Emerald Avenue, Ortigas and Cybermall in Eastwood, with new branches to open in Baguio, Katipunan and Subic.





NIBBLE AWAY WITH TOAST BREADS
Gardenia Bakeries offers toast breads in three variants. These are Toasties, bite-size toasts with the flavor of real butter sprinkled with sugar; the 2-slice pack Butter Toast; and Garlic Toast sprinkled with parsley. Toast bread creates a balance between flavors, be it with the bittersweet taste of coffee or the sweet-spicy flavor of pasta dishes.

Breakfast in bed with tasty spreads

YOUR parents are definitely going to be at a loss when you start serving them breakfast in bed.

But while serving one is portrayed as an elaborate ordeal, you really do not need to exert all your effort and energy to show your parents how much you appreciate them. It doesn't have to be a five-course meal; 10 minutes is usually all it takes to pull the whole thing off.

Assembling the right items is the key: a cup of instant cappuccino, a couple of fresh muffins, a glass of fruit juice, and sliced bread rolls topped with Crumpy chocolate hazelnut spread sprinkled with some dried fruit.

Parents will be surprised with how good a little Crumpy spread on a roll tastes, but of course, you knew that all along. If you want to give them an extra dose of chocolate, try using it as a dip for their favorite fruit.

Apples, bananas and strawberries work particularly well, and you can even add variations since most grocery stores carry Crumpy in four flavors—Chocolate, Banana, Nut and Duo (Chocolate and Hazelnut combined).

It's these little acts of kindness that make life sweet.

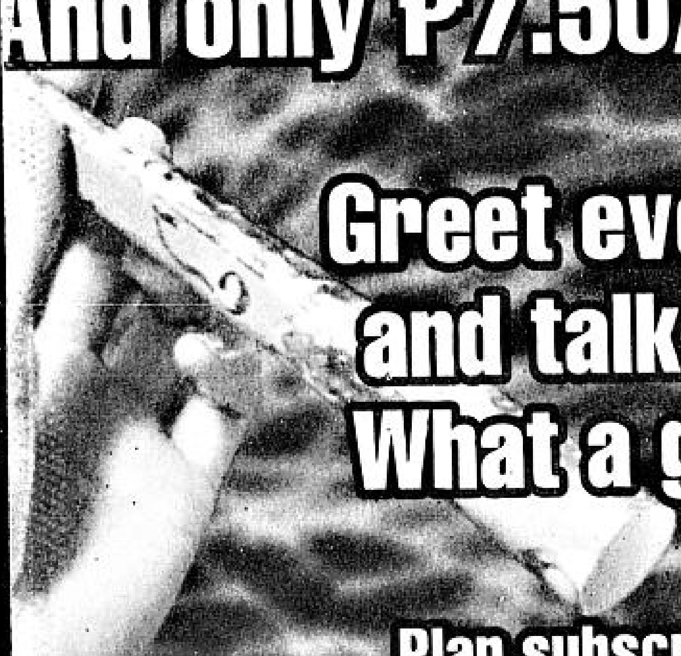
talk of the town
*rate per minute

NEW LOW FLAT RATE! FOR PREPAID

ONLY ₱6.50*

GLOBE-TO-GLOBE!

And only ₱7.50/minute for Globe to non-Globe.

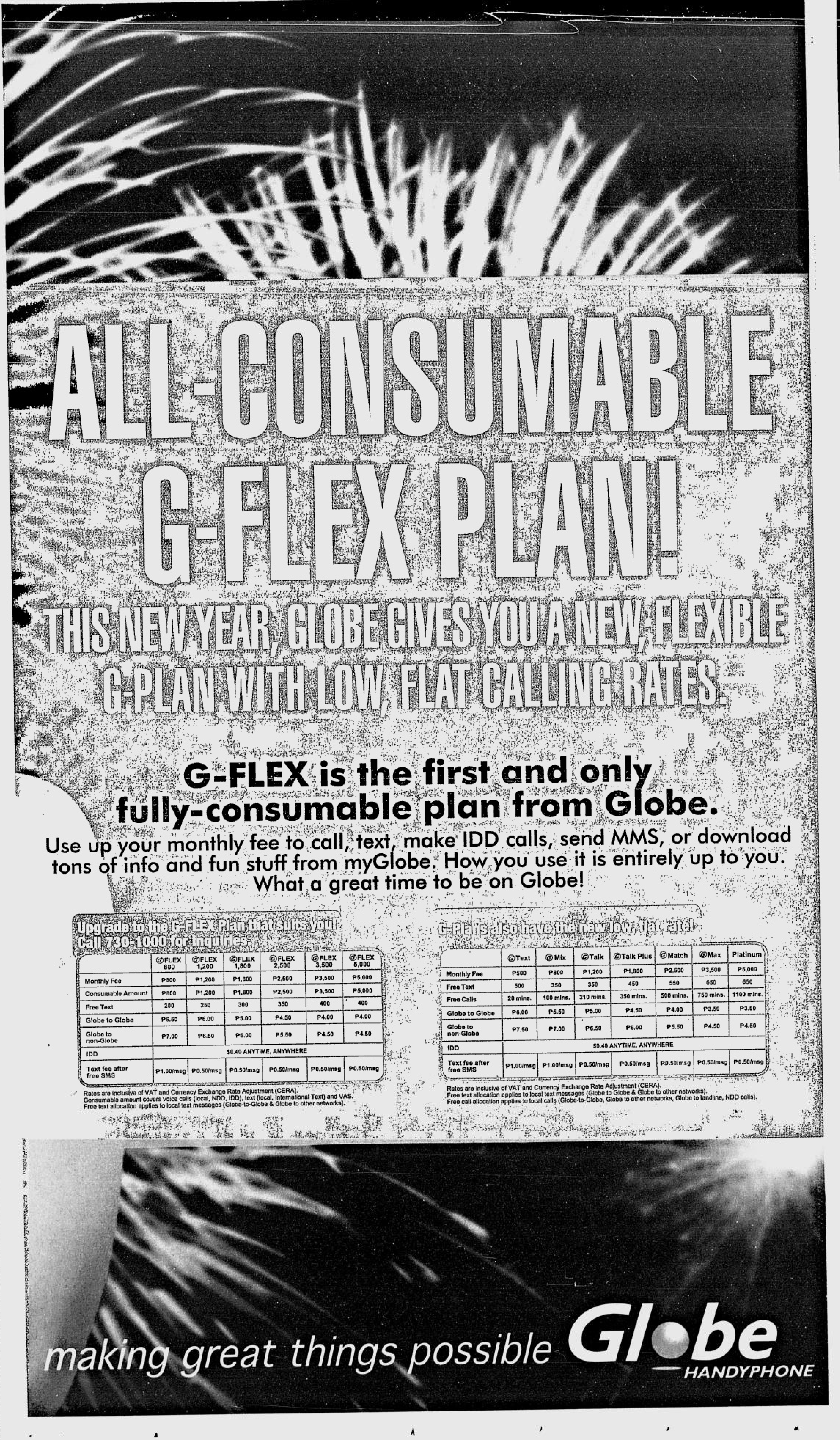


Greet everyone a Happy New Year
and talk for as long as you want!
What a great time to be on Globe!

Plan subscribers can also enjoy lower, flat rates.
Call 730-1000 for inquiries.

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

more great news
G



ALL-CONSUMABLE G-FLEX PLAN!

THIS NEW YEAR, GLOBE GIVES YOU A NEW, FLEXIBLE G-PLAN WITH LOW, FLAT CALLING RATES.

G-FLEX is the first and only fully-consumable plan from Globe.

Use up your monthly fee to call, text, make IDD calls, send MMS, or download tons of info and fun stuff from myGlobe. How you use it is entirely up to you. What a great time to be on Globe!

Upgrade to the G-FLEX Plan that suits you! Call 730-1000 for inquiries.

	FLEX 800	FLEX 1,200	FLEX 1,800	FLEX 2,500	FLEX 3,500	FLEX 5,000
Monthly Fee	P800	P1,200	P1,800	P2,500	P3,500	P5,000
Consumable Amount	P800	P1,200	P1,800	P2,500	P3,500	P5,000
Free Text	200	250	300	350	400	400
Globe to Globe	P6.50	P6.00	P5.00	P4.50	P4.00	P4.00
Globe to non-Globe	P7.00	P6.50	P6.00	P5.50	P4.50	P4.50
IDD	$0.40 ANYTIME, ANYWHERE					
Text fee after free SMS	P1.00/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg

Rates are inclusive of VAT and Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (CERA).
Consumable amount covers voice calls (local, NDD, IDD), text (local, International Text) and VAS.
Free text allocation applies to local text messages (Globe-to-Globe & Globe to other networks).

G-Plans also have the new low, flat rate!

	Text	Mix	Talk	Talk Plus	Match	Max	Platinum
Monthly Fee	P500	P800	P1,200	P1,800	P2,500	P3,500	P5,000
Free Text	500	350	350	450	550	650	650
Free Calls	20 mins.	100 mins.	210 mins.	350 mins.	500 mins.	750 mins.	1100 mins.
Globe to Globe	P6.00	P5.50	P5.00	P4.50	P4.00	P3.50	P3.50
Globe to non-Globe	P7.50	P7.00	P6.50	P6.00	P5.50	P4.50	P4.50
IDD	$0.40 ANYTIME, ANYWHERE						
Text fee after free SMS	P1.00/msg	P1.00/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg	P0.50/msg

Rates are inclusive of VAT and Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (CERA).
Free text allocation applies to local text messages (Globe to Globe & Globe to other networks).
Free call allocation applies to local calls (Globe-to-Globe, Globe to other networks, Globe to landline, NDD calls).

making great things possible

Globe HANDYPHONE

DOT partners with Globe to boost tourism

GLOBE Telecom recently affirmed its active partnership with the government when it signed an agreement with the Department of Tourism for the implementation of the Volunteer 12 program, at the Dasmarinas Function Room of the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati.

Volunteer 12 (V-12) is a major initiative that aims to boost tourism in the country, by encouraging Filipinos to invite their friends and relatives abroad to travel to the Philippines and enjoy its holiday destinations. Under the agreement, Globe is endorsed by the DOT as its exclusive telco partner in the Volunteer 12 campaign.

Globe President and CEO Gerry Ablaza said Globe's involvement in V-12 makes it possible for anyone to help bring in tourists to the country, just by using Globe's wide range of international services, such as IDD, international text messaging and most recently, international MMS. He also noted that this is consistent with Globe's corporate citizenship agenda, which has been proven by its participation in the programs of the Social Security System and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. "Globe's involvement in V-12 is part of its commitment to nation-building", Ablaza said.

Globe subscribers can join Volunteer 12 by simply texting "V-12" to 2360. You earn points for every tourist you bring in to the country. Just instruct your guests to indicate your name or your V-12 ID Number on the special form attached to Disembarkation/Immigration card once they arrive in the Philippines.

The top fifteen V-12 volunteers per year will win corresponding cash prizes. The 1st prize winner brings home P1 million while the 2nd prize winner receives P500,000 and the third prize winner gets 300,000. Each of the winners from the 4th to the 12th place receives a consolation prize of P200,000.

Gordon noted that if every Filipino invited just one tourist each, the tourism industry could create jobs for millions of Filipinos, eventually spurring the growth of our economy.

Finalizing the agreement were (from left to right) Ferdz de la Cruz, head of Globe's Wireless Business Group, Ablaza, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Undersecretary Armand Arreza.

GLOBE TELECOM
Invite You

Executive Essentials: Globe Platinum Plan's Treo 600 with Mobilemail a virtual office-on-the-go

ONCE upon a time, there was a place called the office which was a fixed 3-dimensional structure complete with walls, chairs, desks, filing cabinets, a coffee machine and some décor. Today, with Globe's new Treo 600 which comes free with a Platinum Plan, a god-send for upwardly mobile workaholics, there is no place on earth you cannot call an office!

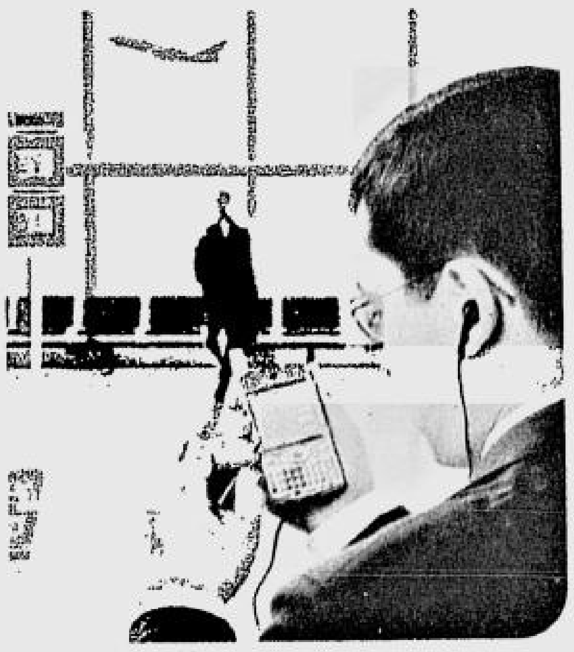
Go wireless with Globe's new offering, the Treo 600. This latest phone with a convenient qwerty keypad combines the full exciting features of a mobile phone (from MMS, GPRS and built-in camera!) and Palm OS organizer (Calendars, Spreadsheets, Web browser, E-mail messaging!). Globe even powers this new handset with two more of its mobile innovations: MobileMail and the G-Plan opti-SIM!

MobileMail on the Treo 600 makes it possible for G-plan subscribers to access their corporate or personal files and email and have their very own virtual office wherever they are. This lets you access documents stored on your PC, send, receive and read corporate mail, handle e-mail attachments, view your contact list, surf the net and manage your appointments. Access to these lets you act quickly on critical business issues -- surely the fastest way to be ahead of the corporate race.

And because Globe believes you should have more time to do the things you really want to do in life, its Treo 600 offering also comes with the new G-Plan opti-SIM, an important lifestyle enhancement every hardworking high-flyer should have. The 128k Opti-SIM is the most powerful SIM card in the world, which has a 750 phonebook and 100-message capacity and a built in myOrganizer.

Get the Treo 600 free with the Platinum Plan at P5, 000/month (VAT and CERA inclusive) and get 1,100 free call minutes and 650 free text messages per month. Subscribers will also get an exclusive free leather casing for the Treo 600.

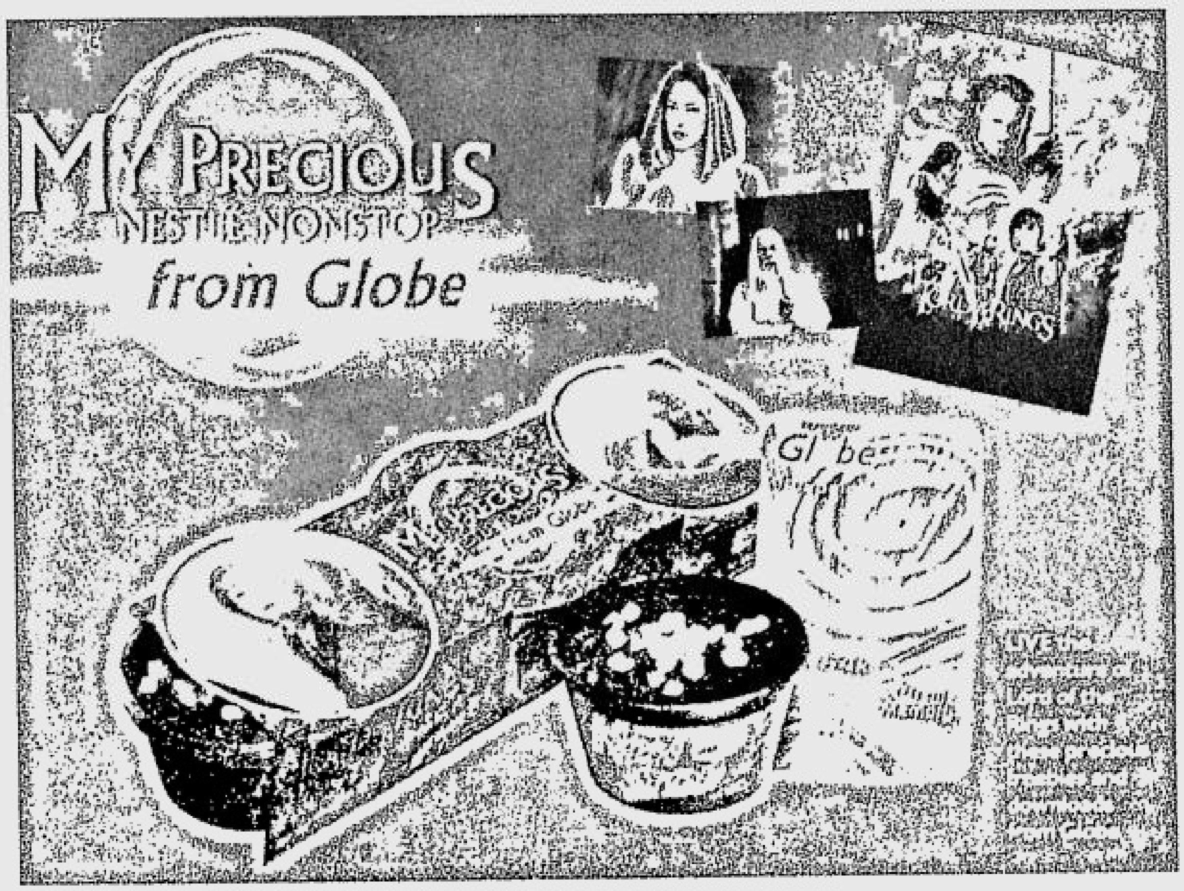
With these executive essentials, you need not worry about your deadlines while you're stuck in traffic or waiting for a meeting to start or just plain enjoying a cup of coffee in a quiet corner at your favorite deli. Globe gives you the freedom to send that important e-mail, or read the latest updates from your colleagues, wherever you are and wherever you want! Go to any Globe Hub or Globe Telecom Business Centers and get the Treo 600 with the Platinum Plan and 'move into' your new office-on-the-go today!



MOBILE MEETING
While other people are on their way to their meetings, Globe Platinum Plan's Treo 600 with opti-SIM and Mobilemail service lets you work wherever you are.

Get the Treo 600 free with the Platinum Plan at P5,000/month (VAT and CERA inclusive) and get 1,100 free call minutes and 650 free text messages per month.

Precious Return of the King treats from Globe



GLOBE lets its subscribers in on this year's much awaited screen flick, the concluding chapter to the Lord of the Rings epic trilogy - The Return of the King. With a rich assortment of cool FREE treats and hot movie properties in store for its subscribers, now is the best time to be on Globe!

A cool treat for new Globe Prepaid subscribers!

Get the most out of your Return of the King experience by becoming a Globe subscriber now! From December 7 to January 15, 2004, new Globe Prepaid subscribers can have a limited edition 3-Cup My Precious Nestle NonStop Black Desire pack from Globe!

To avail of your FREE My Precious Nestle NonStop Black Desire frozen delight, just go to any Globe Business Center, HUB or any authorized dealer and buy either a Globe Prepaid X-treme SIM for P200 or a Globe Hi-memory SIM for P150. Make a first reload during the promo period and you will receive a text message with promo information from 2977. Show this text message and surrender your SIM casing at any participating outlet of Odyssey Records, Caltex Starmart, Shell Selecr, Petron Treats or any roving Nestle Ice Cream cart nationwide. Redemption period is until March 15, 2004.

myGlobe's Return Of the King gallery

The Lord of the Rings trilogy is one of those movies whose timeless appeal and universal themes go beyond the cinemaplexes. Now Globe subscribers can get closer to the action and adventure of LOTR just by downloading colored wallpapers, picture messages and operator logos of their favorite Lord of the Rings character from myGlobe.

myGlobe's unique and exclusive catalogue of Return of the King properties are both inspirational and evocative. With meticulously selected stills from Return of the King, Globe subscribers can relive time and time again great scenes from the movie.

As an added treat, from now until January 15, 2004, you can get a FREE cup of Nestle NonStop Black Desire Ice Cream for downloading exclusive Return of the King properties from myGlobe. On your first download, you will receive a text message with promo information from 2977. Bring this message at participating Odyssey Records, nationwide to claim your free Nestle NonStop Black Desire ice cream.

To download myGlobe's exclusive Return of the King properties, just text the keyword LOTR to 2346 or click the Return of the King link on the myGlobe WAP site on your Globe Handyphone.

Get Globe-connected now and enjoy these precious freebies and delicious downloads while enjoying the biggest movie this season!

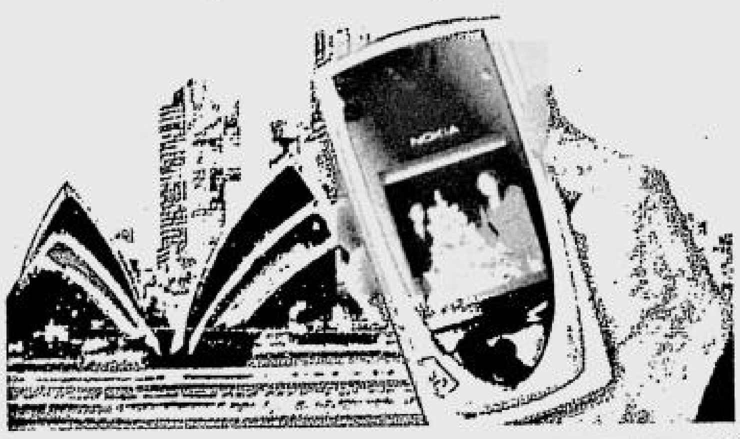
Enjoy greater connectivity across the world this Christmas with Globe's international MMS

A FAMILY reunion this Christmas, a chance meeting with a famous celebrity, or friends plastering cake on your face during your birthday celebration . These are but a few of life's many memorable moments that are really worth sharing with your close friends and family even if they are oceans apart from you. Thanks to Globe's International MMS service, relatives living abroad can never miss out on the fun of important family occasions such as Christmas parties at home, birthdays, or weddings. Because of Globe's partnership with operators in 15 countries, those who long for the company of loved ones abroad can do so in an instant at just a click of a button.

Initially available in fifteen countries: Sweden, Australia, China, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Thailand, Norway, Singapore, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Costing P20.00 for sending a photo message and P40.00 for sending a video message both for Plan and Prepaid subscribers, Globe's innovative International MMS bridges distance.

To send an International MMS is very simple. Compose an MMS message as you would an SMS. Key in the country code + area code + cellphone number of the person you are trying to reach. Presto! The MMS message will reach your friend or loved one right away.

Only Globe gives you services that let you keep in touch and stay connected with people you value the most anytime, anywhere, even if they are far away, especially this Christmas season. Call Globe's 24-hour Call-In Service at 7301000 or 211 toll-free from your Handyphone for more details on the operator of your International MMS destination.



Connectivity Anytime, Anywhere for just P50 with Globe AutoloadMAX

WERE you ever in a situation when you really needed to get in touch with your family and friends so badly but were unable to because your prepaid phone credits ran out at some remote location or the cash you had was not enough for a call card?

To meet everyone's increasing reliance on connectivity, Globe has come up with AutoloadMAX, an innovative new service that lets Globe prepaid subscribers reload their account credits by simply dropping by supermarkets, groceries, sari-sari stores, drug stores, telecom shops or other retail outlets which have the Globe AutoloadMAX signs.

The great news is that Globe now makes reloading even more affordable with its AutoloadMAX denomination of P50! This ensures that Globe subscribers will always be connected even during the height of the Christmas shopping rush. Now you can call or text your family or friends even when you have almost depleted your cash resources by buying holiday gifts.

Should your phone credits run out while you are doing your shopping, have no fear! You can quickly get your pre-paid account Autoloaded at a nearby booth!

The new P50 AutoloadMAX is a practical solution for people working on a tight budget such as students and homemakers. At just P50 you can get instant connectivity to last for five days. What's even better, is that your connectivity is not automatically cut-off even if you fail to replenish your prepaid phone account immediately! You have until thirty days to have your Globe Handyphone Autoloaded once again. But why wait that long? At just P50, staying connected has never been this easy on the wallet. Finding a Globe AutoloadMAX dealer is also a breeze, because they are EVERYWHERE!

With Globe AutoloadMAX available in P50 and P100 denomination you can always stay connected with your friends and loved ones for less, anytime, anywhere. So what are you waiting for? Get Globe connected now with Globe AutoloadMAX! Truly the best Christmas gift from the leader in connectivity.

NOW you can reload your phone with P50 credits using Globe AutoloadMAX

ADVT

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Tasties
LIFESTYLE

CHOCOLATE Chip Muffins

Bridal Shower

SM CINEMA
Meet & Greet
FRANCINE PRIETO
CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
ALFRED VARGAZ
RODEL VELAYO
DOUGLAS ROBINSON
JUANCHO VALENTINO
SM City North Edsa, 1pm
SM City Sta. Mesa, 3pm
SM Manila, 5pm
Jan. 1 at the Cinema Lobby
29th Philippines
GET A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR PHOTOS TAKEN WITH THE STARS!
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

Recipe for would-be tycoon

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

LET'S start the New Year right. With all the questions and recipe requests, in 2004, I promise to answer as many of them as I can.

Stay healthy, happy and decently merry!

Balak kong magtinda ng sno kone dahil may ice crusher *ako....* I ate at Ice Monster *pero masyadong pang sosi ang presyo. Eh sa Kalentong lang ang pwesto ko at hindi pa mandin carinderia kundi talagang yelohan lang na may* ice crusher. *Naisip ko na dagdag sa kita eh mag* sno kone. *Kaso* I have been a housewife for too long *na ata na hindi ako marunong nitong* sno kone.... please share with me what you know about sno kone. I will just adjust your recipe *para* saleable *sa mga bata.... Bayaan mo at ipapangalan ko* sno kone ala reggie, *o di ba?*

Mrs. Josie A. Pagado

Hindi po ako eksperto sa snow cone *ngunit lahat po ng aking nalalaman, ay ibabahagi ko sa inyo. Wala na po kasi akong nanaisin pa sa buhay kung hindi magkaroon ng* snowcone *na nakapangalan sa akin.*

Good luck *at alam ko pong sa darating na taon, kayo na ang tatanghaling* Snow Cone Queen 2004!

Snow cone facts:

- The nice thing about snow cones is that it requires very little to start and make a business out of it.
- Snow cone is just shaved ice and fruit juice.
- Equipment needed: snow cone cups, spoons, syrup dispensers and ice machine
- All snow cones are the same until you put the syrup.
- Remember: make the syrup tasty and colorful
- Make multi-flavored cones and charge a higher price. In some snow cone stands, they add vodka and rum while others add fresh crushed and chilled fruit.
- Be imaginative in creating flavors.

Basic Snow Cone Syrup

The syrup will depend on how tart or sweet you want it to be. Add more sugar for sweeter syrup, less water if you want it more intense.

¼ c water
½ c sugar
½ c fruit juice mix, such as Kool Aid or Tang, any flavor or any fruit juice concentrate
food coloring as deemed necessary

- Place all ingredients in a large cup or jar

RECIPE: D3

WE DELIVER!

Hungry for news that would feed your mind? The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers straight to your doorstep. Subscribe to the country's #1 newspaper now!

Call: 528-0183 / 528-0186

Fax reply coupon to: 528-02-34 or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Please have my copy delivered to:

Name ____________________
Address ____________________
____________________ Tel. No. __________
Signature ____________________

Stage a concert at home.

Download SMART Mobile Coupons for the chance to win a Magic Sing microphone!

AMAZING DOWNLOADS GRAND DRAW IS ON January 7, 2004.

To enjoy freebies and discounts, download and present these at the establishments!

TOKYO TOKYO Great Great JAPANESE
keyword: TOKYO
FREE Sumo Size Red Iced Tea for a minimum purchase of P100.

Pizza Hut
keyword: PIZZAHUT
Get 2 orders of spaghetti with your dine-in order of a Family Pan Pizza, or get a 4 pcs. of chicken wings with your take-out order.

National Sports Grill
keyword: NSG
Get to choose from the ff: Grand Prix Cheese Cake Pepperoni Pizza, 1 hour of billiards, a bucket of local beers and Angel Hair Pomodoro for a minimum single reciept purchase of P600.

P & prints
keyword: P&P
20% discount on Eve Perfume and underwear.

Burgoo
keyword: BURGOO
Buy 3 three entrees and pay for only two. Least price is free.

CINEMAS
keyword: RMOVIE
FREE popcorn and iced tea every time you purchase a movie ticket.

Send LIST ALL to 270 for a list of over 100 SMART Mobile Coupons (P2.50/inquiry).

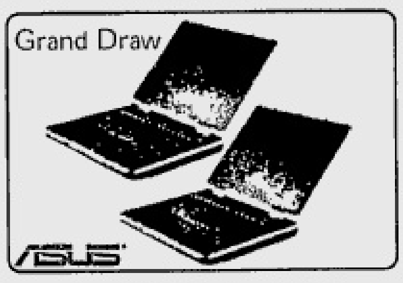
To download:

MC <NAME of ESTABLISHMENT>
Type MC <NAME of ESTABLISHMENT>

270
Send to 270

You'll receive:
1. A SMART Mobile Coupon: an operator logo, which features your chosen establishment's logo.
2. A text message detailing your freebie or discount.
3. A text message confirming your download and the raffle entry you've earned.

Grand Draw
MAGIC SING
VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
in-a-jiffy enterprises



Get a chance to win a BMW 520i! Register for free. Text DREAM to 232!

To join the raffle, register for FREE:

RAFFLE Carlo*Yap*6799 Ayala Ave. Makati City*09181976*F

270

1. Register once by texting RAFFLE space <FirstName>*<Last Name>*<Address> *<Date of Birth-mmddyyyy> *<Gender- M or F>.
2. Send to 270. Expect a text message confirming your registration.

- Every download becomes a raffle entry
- Get SMS updates on the promo
- Text OFF to 270 to turn off promo updates
- Non-winning weekly entries will not be included in the succeeding weekly draws. However all non-winning & winning entries will still be included in the Grand Draw.

To check the number of raffle entries you've earned:
Text RAFFLE to 386 (P2.50/inquiry).

Service is available to:

SMART GOLD · Buddy · TALK 'N TEXT

SMART Simply amazing!

Promo runs from Dec. 4 2003 up to Jan. 4 2004. See flyers for details.
Call the SMART Corporate Hotline at 888

Go light to start the year right

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

AFTER all the bingeing, now is the time to shed off pounds gained during the holidays. And this means sensible eating—more vegetables high in fiber, low salt, low sugar and low sodium recipes, as well as more fresh and raw fruits and vegetables. Here we have Garlicky Kangkong, Tuna Fried Rice and Steamed Fish in Clear Sauce.

Garlicky Kangkong

1 bundle Chinese *kangkong*, approx. 450 g
3 tbsp corn or canola oil
2 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c coarsely chopped onions
salt and pepper to taste
1 tbsp soy sauce
1/3 c water

Wash the *kangkong* well in running water. Discard the roots. Separate the leaves from the stem. Slice the stem diagonally into small pieces. Set aside.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan. As soon as the oil is hot enough, add garlic and onions and sauté until fragrant. It is important not to allow the garlic to color. Add the *kangkong* stems and sauté for a few seconds until they start to wilt. Add the *kangkong* leaves and continue mixing over a fairly high heat until they wilt. Season with salt and pepper. Add the remaining ingredients and allow to boil briefly. Serve immediately.

Note: Spinach leaves may be used in place of *kangkong*.

Tuna Fried Rice

2 eggs
1 tbsp corn oil
¼ c corn or canola oil
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
½ c minced carrots
2 cans tuna in water (184 g each), well drained
4 c cooked rice
3 tbsp soy sauce
Black pepper to taste
½ c chopped spring onions

Beat the eggs in a bowl until frothy. Heat a tablespoon of oil in a small frying pan. Pour in the beaten eggs and allow to cook until set. Allow to cool briefly and cut into thin strips.

In a large frying pan, heat the remaining oil. Sauté the garlic together with the onions and carrots until the onions are transparent. Add the tuna and sauté briefly to remove the "canned" taste. Add the rice and mix well. Add the soy sauce and the seasonings. Turn off the heat and quickly stir in the spring onions and egg.

Steamed Fish in Clear Sauce

1 pc (about 800 g) *lapulapu*, *apahap* or *tilapia* for steaming

Marinade:
½ c gin
2 tsp fine salt
2 tsp white sugar
2 slices of ginger cut into thin strips

Broth for poaching:
8 c water
1 c sliced leeks
6 thin slices fresh ginger
1 tbsp rice wine or mirin
1 tbsp fine salt

Sauce:
1 c fish stock
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tsp white sugar
¼ tsp sesame oil

Topping:
2 tbsp corn oil
Sprigs of *wansoy/kinchay* or chopped leeks
Leftover Chinese ham, sliced into thin strips

Clean the fish well. Remove the gills, the internal organs and slit the stomach open. Make sure that all internal organs and blood have been removed. Make three diagonal slashes on each side of the fish. Rub the surface of the fish with salt and sugar. Stuff the stomach of the fish with ginger strips. Pour the gin over the fish and let sit for 15 minutes.

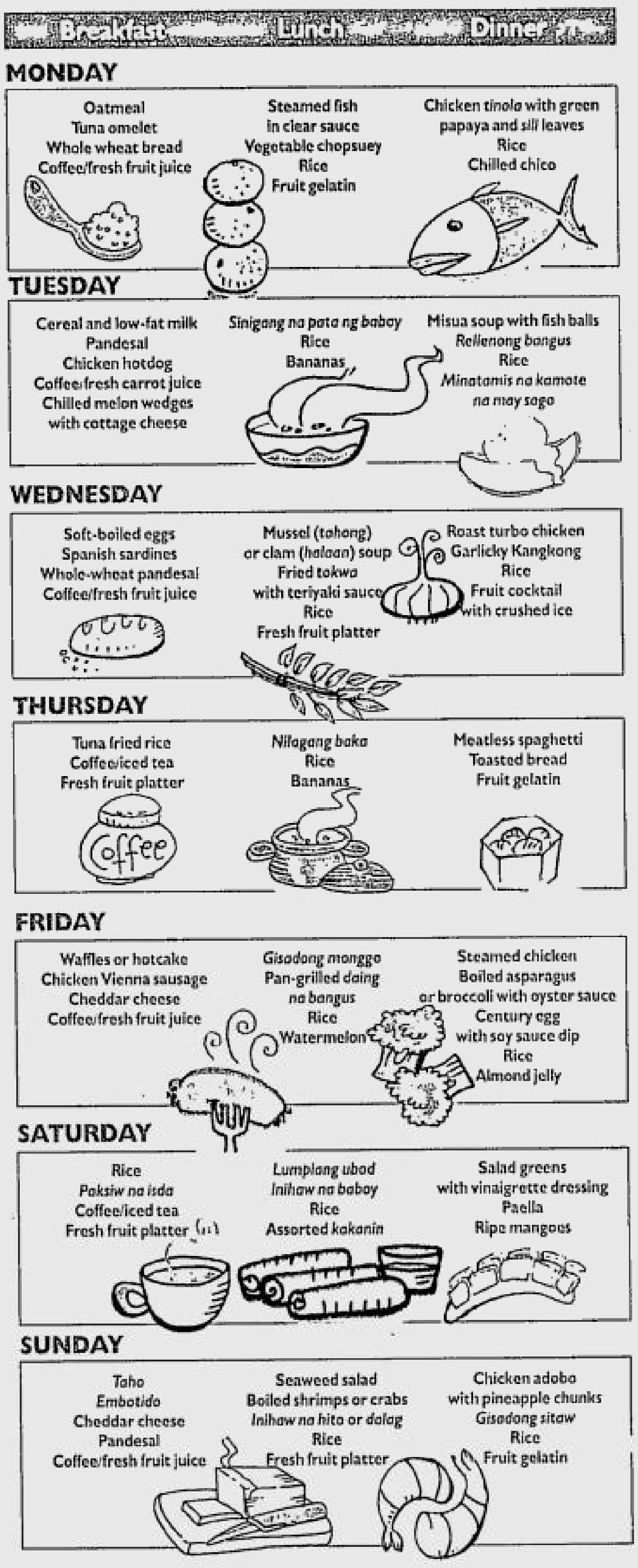
In a stockpot, combine the ingredients for the broth. Allow to boil. Lower the fish in the boiling broth and allow to boil once more. Cover the stockpot and let boil for 10 minutes. Retrieve the fish and transfer to a serving platter.

Set aside a cup of the cooking liquid and transfer to a small saucepan. This is your homemade fish stock. To this add the soy sauce, sugar and sesame oil. Allow to boil and pour over the fish. Top the fish with *wansoy/kinchay* or leeks.

In a small frying pan, heat up the remaining oil. As soon as it reaches its smoking point, turn off the heat and immediately pour over the entire length of the fish.

Garnish with ham. Serve immediately.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School, QC. Call 7217735 or e-mail dorothyferreria@skyinet.net



	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Oatmeal Tuna omelet Whole wheat bread Coffee/fresh fruit juice	Steamed fish in clear sauce Vegetable chopsuey Rice Fruit gelatin	Chicken *tinola* with green papaya and *sili* leaves Rice Chilled chico
TUESDAY	Cereal and low-fat milk Pandesal Chicken hotdog Coffee/fresh carrot juice Chilled melon wedges with cottage cheese	*Sinigang na pata ng baboy* Rice Bananas	Misua soup with fish balls *Rellenong bangus* Rice *Minatamis na kamote na may sago*
WEDNESDAY	Soft-boiled eggs Spanish sardines Whole-wheat pandesal Coffee/fresh fruit juice	Mussel (*tahong*) or clam (*halaan*) soup Fried *tokwa* with teriyaki sauce Rice Fresh fruit platter	Roast turbo chicken Garlicky Kangkong Rice Fruit cocktail with crushed ice
THURSDAY	Tuna fried rice Coffee/iced tea Fresh fruit platter	*Nilagang baka* Rice Bananas	Meatless spaghetti Toasted bread Fruit gelatin
FRIDAY	Waffles or hotcake Chicken Vienna sausage Cheddar cheese Coffee/fresh fruit juice	*Gisadong monggo* Pan-grilled *daing na bangus* Rice Watermelon	Steamed chicken Boiled asparagus or broccoli with oyster sauce Century egg with soy sauce dip Rice Almond jelly
SATURDAY	Rice *Paksiw na isda* Coffee/iced tea Fresh fruit platter	*Lumpiang ubod* *Inihaw na baboy* Rice Assorted *kakanin*	Salad greens with vinaigrette dressing Paella Ripe mangoes
SUNDAY	*Taho* *Embotido* Cheddar cheese Pandesal Coffee/fresh fruit juice	Seaweed salad Boiled shrimps or crabs *Inihaw na hito or dalag* Rice Fresh fruit platter	Chicken adobo with pineapple chunks *Gisadong sitaw* Rice Fruit gelatin

---

What to do with leftover food

NOCHE Buena and other Christmas parties are all the norm in this season of celebration, and with them come the problem of food leftovers.

Too often, these leftovers are thrown away. But there is another way, and all it takes is advance planning, creativity, the right cooking tools to make sure you do not waste leftover food this Christmas.

Moulinex of France offers the following tips on how to give holiday meal leftovers a new lease on life.

Turn leftover bread into morning-after French toast. Dip the bread in a mixture of beaten eggs and milk, pan fry and top with a spoonful or more of berries, peaches or crushed pineapple.

Leftover chicken or turkey meat can be used for soup, appetizer, even a main course.

For a delectable soup called Bouillon de Volaille, combine leftover chicken with the following ingredients: 2 tbsp salt, 2 large carrots (roughly chopped), 2 celery stalks (roughly chopped), 2 leeks (roughly chopped), 2 peeled onions (each stuck with 2 cloves) and herbs (1 tsp each of 8 parsley sprigs, 1 bay leaf, thyme and sage).

First, chop the chicken meat and put in a large kettle or stockpot. Pour in water, add salt and bring to a simmer. Add the rest of the ingredients and wait for it to simmer. Keep uncovered until the vegetables are cooked. Add water if needed so that the ingredients are always covered by the soup.

For cooking this dish, Moulinex's Multitrio Chopper is a very handy gadget use.

It is an efficient and stylish product with numerous safety features that guarantee accident and worry-free cooking, anytime. It chops up all all types of food, creates thick and tasty sauces, blends soups into rich, creamy mixtures, and whips up delicious and heavenly desserts without the usual hassle and fuss.

A yummy appetizer also using leftover chicken is Chicken Poulette. Place two slices each of buttered and toasted leftover bread on four plates. Top the bread with the chicken meat and sprinkle crumbled bacon over it.

For the sauce, melt 5 tbsp butter in a skillet and saute 6 finely chopped green onions for about five minutes. Over low heat, add 4 tbsp flour, stir and cook for about three minutes. Slowly add 3 cups of milk, continuing to stir and bring the mixture to a simmer.

As the sauce thickens, add ½ cup grated cheddar cheese, ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese, and salt, pepper and Tabasco to taste. Simmer and continue to stir until the cheeses are melted. Pour the sauce over the chicken and bacon. Sprinkle ½ cup grated cheese on top, then sprinkle ½ tsp paprika. Broil until the cheese melts and serve.

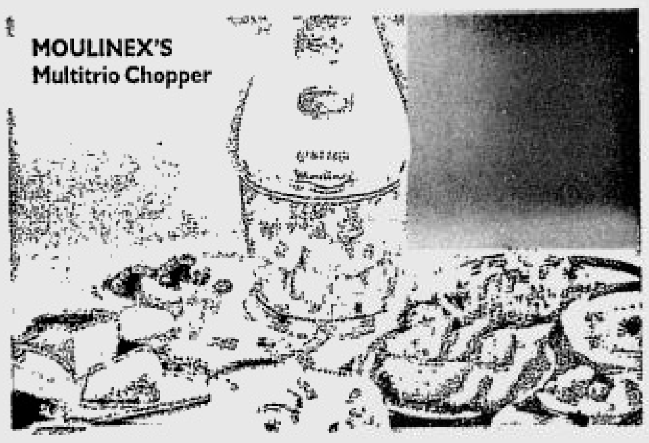
Another familiar dish in need of leftover food is the omelet. A French recipe is the Omelette aux Champignons or Flat Omelet with mushrooms.

Saute ¼ pound thinly sliced mushrooms in 1 tbsp butter with garlic for about five-seven minutes. Then add leftover chicken meat, ham, and red and green peppers. Add salt and pepper to taste, and parsley. Allow to cool slightly. Beat 4-5 eggs and stir in sauteed ingredients.

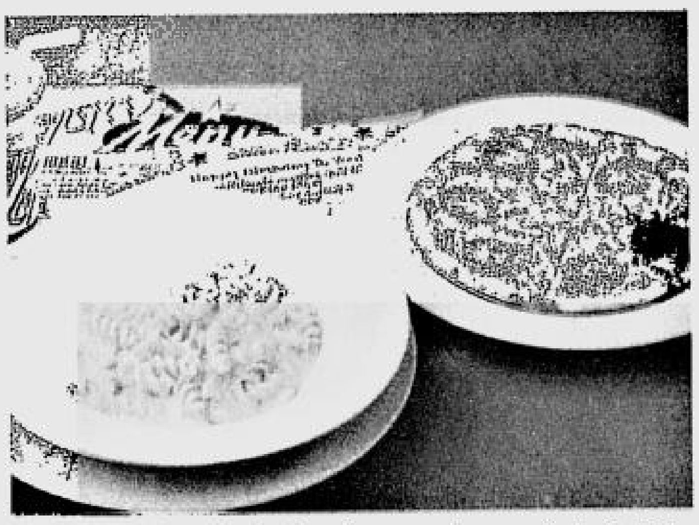
Heat the remaining butter in a nine-inch omelet pan over medium heat. When the butter begins to brown, add the mixture. Stir the eggs briskly using the flat side of a fork and continue stirring until the mixture is as thick as scrambled eggs.

Put a heatproof plate on top of the skillet and turn the omelet onto plate. Slide the omelet back into the skillet to brown the other side. Serve hot or cold, cut into half or wedges. Serve it with a salad for a light lunch or supper.

Moulinex of France, a world-renowned brand of small kitchen appliances, has various products like blenders, food processors, mixers, juice extractors and many other kitchen gadgets that help moms and cooks whip up enticing meals, in and out of the holidays.

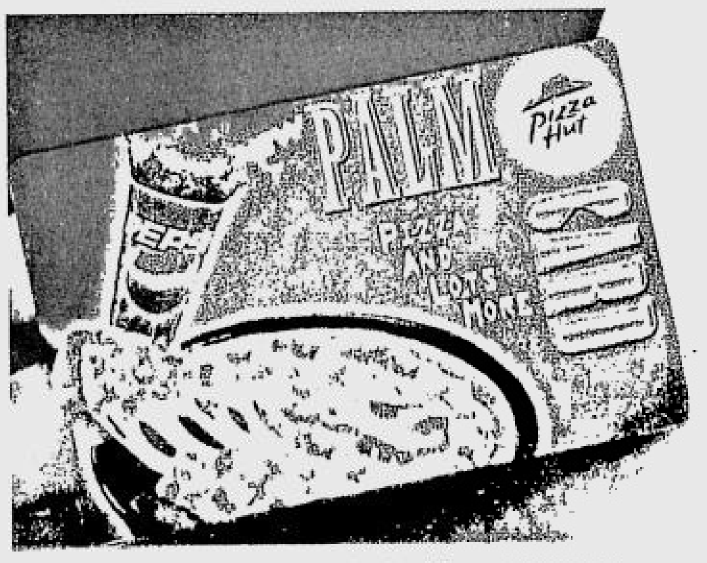


MOULINEX'S
Multitrio Chopper



CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen has a buy-one-take-one offering for kids on Jan. 5-10. Children 10 years old and below get a free CPKids meal when they order from the CPKids menu. Pizzas include Pepperoni, Original BBQ Chicken, Hawaiian or Mushroom Pepperoni Sausage. For dessert, there are CPKids Sundae and Kiddie Brownie. Available at branches in Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 3 and Alabang Town Center.

TEQUILA Joe's offers Sloppy Cow, My Baby's Back, Mandarin Chicken Salad and Popcorn Shrimps. It has outlets at El Pueblo, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, Robinson's Place Malate, Tomas Morato and Ayala Center in Cebu. Shown is the Marinara Pasta.



PIZZA Hut offers the Pizza Hut Palm Card. For only P200, Palm cardholders can get two pizzas for the price of one. Just present the card when buying a pan pizza and Pepsi, and get a Hawaiian pan pizza of the same size for free. The card is valid for dine-in purchases, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays excluding holidays, take-out and delivery orders.

Sweet New Year welcome

TREAT your family to a fruity dish specially prepared by gourmet chef Beth Romualdez with a little help from HP Barbecue Sauce, which is more versatile than catsup for sweet and savory dishes.

You can also enjoy HP Barbecue Sauce with your favorite holiday finger foods.

HP Barbecue Sauce is a quality product of HP Foods, Ltd., makers of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.

Pork Ribs with Mango Barbecue Sauce

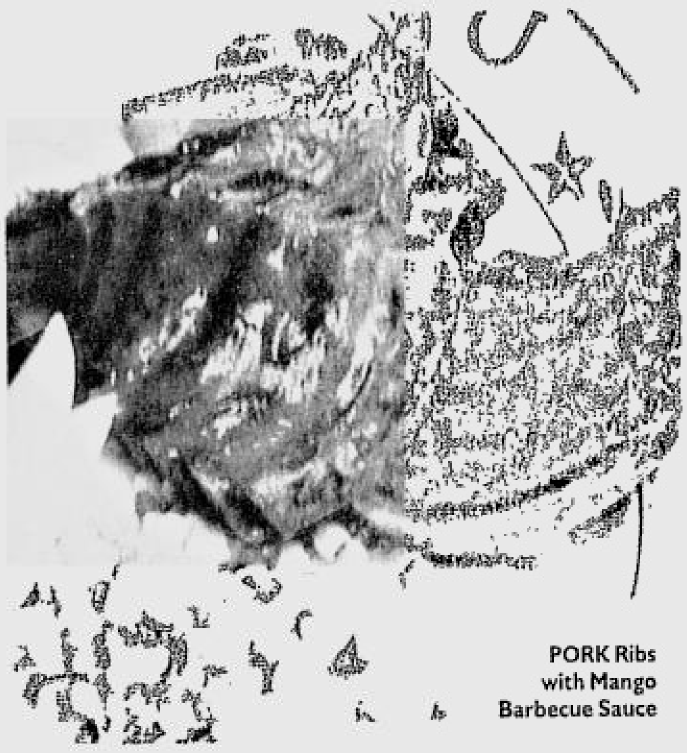
1-2 slabs pork spareribs
1 tsp ginger, grated
6 cloves garlic, finely minced
1 tsp paprika
2 tsp dry mustard
2 tsp cayenne pepper
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
2 tsp soy sauce
1 tbsp hoisin sauce
3 tbsp lemon juice or vinegar
salt and pepper to taste

HP Mango-Barbecue Sauce:
½ c HP Barbecue Sauce
½ c mango juice
2 tsp hot pepper sauce
2 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp onion grated

Pre-heat oven to 350ºF. In a bowl, mix together all the ingredients except the meat. Spread the mixture over both sides of the slab and rub until well coated. Bake in a pre-heated oven for an hour, turning every 20 minutes. Brush the HP Mango-Barbecue sauce and bake for 10 minutes more. Serve with extra sauce on the side.

For added taste, prepare the grill and finish cooking over charcoal until brown. For HP Mango-Barbecue Sauce, place all ingredients in a saucepan. Stir to blend then bring to a boil. Let cool. Serves four-six.

Call 8172940.



PORK Ribs with Mango Barbecue Sauce

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Go light to start the year right

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

AFTER all the bingeing, now is the time shed off pounds gained during the holidays. And this means sensible eating—more vegetables high in fiber, low salt, low sugar and low sodium recipes, as well as more fresh and raw fruits and vegetables. Here we have Garlicky Kangkong, Tuna Fried Rice and Steamed Fish in Clear Sauce.

Garlicky Kangkong

1 bundle Chinese *kan*[illegible] approx. 450 g
3 tbsp corn or canola oil
2 tbsp well-pounded garlic
[illegible] c coarsely chopped onions
salt and pepper to taste
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 [illegible] c water

Wash the *kangkong* well [illegible] running water. Discard the roots. Separate the leaves from the stem. Slice the stems [illegible] into small pieces. Set aside.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan [illegible] the oil is hot enough, add garlic and onions and sauté until fragrant. It is important not to allow the garlic to color. Add the *kangkong* stems and sauté for a few seconds until they start to wilt. Add the *kangkong* leaves and continue mixing over a fairly high heat until they wilt. Season with salt and pepper. Add the remaining ingredients [illegible] briefly. Serve immediately.

Note: Spinach leaves may [illegible] pla[illegible] of *kangkong*.

Tuna Fried Rice

2 eggs
1 tbsp corn oil
[illegible] c corn or canola oil
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
[illegible] chopped onions
[illegible] minced carrots
[illegible] cans tuna in water (184 g each), well [illegible]
4 c cooked rice
[illegible] tbsp soy sauce
Black pepper to taste
[illegible] chopped spring onions

Beat the eggs in a bowl until frothy. Heat a tablespoon of oil in a small frying pan. Pour [illegible] the beaten eggs and allow to cook until [illegible] allow to cool briefly and cut into thin strips.

In [illegible] large frying pan, heat the remaining [illegible]. Sauté the garlic together with the onions and carrots until the onions are transparent. Add [illegible] tuna and saute briefly to remove the canned taste. Add the rice and mix well. Add the soy sauce and the seasonings. Turn off the heat and quickly stir in the spring [illegible]

Steamed Fish in Clear Sauce

1 pc (about 800 g) *lapulapu, apahap* or [illegible] for steaming
Marinade:
[illegible]
[illegible] tsp fine salt
2 tsp white sugar
[illegible] of ginger cut into thin strips
Broth for poaching:
[illegible]
[illegible]
5 [illegible] slices fresh ginger
1 tbsp rice wine or mirin
[illegible]
Sauce:
1 c fish stock
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tsp white sugar
[illegible] tsp sesame [illegible]
Topping:
2 tbsp corn oil
Sprigs of wans[illegible] [illegible] chopped leeks
Leftover Chinese ham [illegible] into thin strips

Clean the fish well. Re[illegible] the gills, the internal organs and slit the [illegible] to [illegible] open. Make sure that all internal [illegible] and blood have been removed. Make [illegible] gon. [illegible] on each side of the fish. Rub the surface of the fish with salt and [illegible] Stuff [illegible] the fish with ginger [illegible] the [illegible] and let [illegible] for 15 [illegible]

In [illegible] stockpot, combine [illegible] to the broth. Allow to [illegible] boiling [illegible] and [illegible] Cover the stockpot [illegible] for 10 [illegible] minutes. Re[illegible] serving platter.

Set [illegible] transfer to [illegible] homemade fish [illegible] sauce, sugar and sesame [illegible] Allow [illegible] pour over the fish. To[illegible] soy, *kinchay* or lee[illegible]

In a small frying pan [illegible] up the [illegible] oil. As soon as it [illegible] smoking [illegible] turn off the heat and [illegible] the entire length of the [illegible] Garnish with [illegible]

Dorothy MJ [illegible] and cake [illegible] ing School [illegible]

MONDAY	Oatmeal Tuna omelet Whole wheat bread Coffee fresh fruit juice	Steamed fish in clear sauce Vegetable chopsuey Rice Fruit gelatin	Chicken tinola with green papaya and sili leaves Rice Chilled chico
TUESDAY	Cereal and low-fat milk Pandesal Chicken hotdog Coffee fresh carrot juice Chilled melon wedges with cottage cheese	*Sinigang na pata ng baboy* Rice Bananas	Misua soup with fish balls *Rellenong bangus* Rice *Minatamis na kamote na may sago*
WEDNESDAY	Soft-boiled eggs Spanish sardines Whole-wheat pandesal Coffee fresh fruit juice	Mussel (*tahong*) or clam (*halaan*) soup Fried *tokwa* with teriyaki sauce Rice Fresh fruit platter	Roast turbo chicken Garlicky Kangkong Rice Fruit cocktail with crushed ice
THURSDAY	Tuna fried rice Coffee iced tea Fresh fruit platter	*Nilagang baka* Rice Bananas	Meatless spaghetti Toasted bread Fruit gelatin
	Waffles or hotcake Chicken Vienna sausage Cheddar cheese Coffee fresh fruit juice	*Gisadong monggo* Pan-grilled *daing na bangus* Rice Watermelon	Steamed chicken Boiled asparagus or broccoli with oyster sauce Century egg with soy sauce dip Rice Almond jelly
SATURDAY	Rice *Paksiw na isda* Coffee iced tea Fresh fruit platter	*Lumpiang ubod* *Inihaw na baboy* Rice Assorted *kakanin*	Salad greens with vinaigrette dressing Paella Ripe mangoes
SUNDAY	*Taho* *Embotido* Cheddar cheese Pandesal Coffee fresh fruit juice	Seaweed salad Boiled shrimps or crabs *Inihaw na hito or dalag* Rice Fresh fruit platter	Chicken adobo with pineapple chunks *Gisadong sitaw* Rice Fruit gelatin

What to do with leftover food

NOCHE Buena and other Christmas parties are all the norm in this season of celebration, and with them come the problem of food leftovers.

Too often, these leftovers are thrown away. But there is another way, and all it takes is advance planning, creativity, the right cooking tools to make sure you do not waste leftover food this Christmas.

Moulinex of France offers the following tips on how to give holiday meal leftovers a new lease on life.

Turn leftover bread into morning-after French toast. Dip the bread in a mixture of beaten eggs and milk, pan fry and top with a spoonful or more of berries, peaches or crushed pineapple.

Leftover chicken or turkey meat can be used for soup, appetizer, even a main course.

For a delectable soup called Bouillon de Volaille, combine leftover chicken with the following ingredients: 2 tbsp salt, 2 large carrots (roughly chopped), 2 celery stalks (roughly chopped), 2 leeks (roughly chopped), 2 peeled onions (each stuck with 2 cloves) and herbs (1 tsp each of 8 parsley sprigs, 1 bay leaf, thyme and sage).

First, chop the chicken meat and put in a large kettle or stockpot. Pour in water, add salt and bring to a simmer. Add the rest of the ingredients and wait for it to simmer. Keep uncovered until the vegetables are cooked. Add water if needed so that the ingredients are always covered by the soup.

For cooking this dish, Moulinex's Multitrio Chopper is a very handy gadget use.

It is an efficient and stylish product with numerous safety features that guarantee accident and worry-free cooking, anytime. It chops up all all types of food, creates thick and tasty sauces, blends soups into rich, creamy mixtures, and whips up delicious and heavenly desserts without the usual has[illegible] and fuss.

A yummy appetizer also using leftover chicken [illegible] Chicken Poulette. Place two slices each of buttered and toasted leftover bread on four plates. Top the bread with the chicken meat and sprinkle crumbled bacon over it.

For the sauce, melt 5 tbsp butter in a skillet and saute 6 finely chopped green onions for about five minutes. Over low heat, add 4 tbsp flour, stir and cook for about three minutes. Slowly add 3 cups of milk, continuing to stir and bring the mixture to a simmer.

As the sauce thickens, add [illegible] cup grated cheddar cheese, ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese, and salt, pepper and Tabasco to taste. Simmer and continue to stir until the cheeses are melted. Pour the sauce over the chicken and bacon. Sprinkle [illegible] cup grated cheese on top, then sprinkle [illegible] tsp paprika. Broil until the cheese melts and serve.

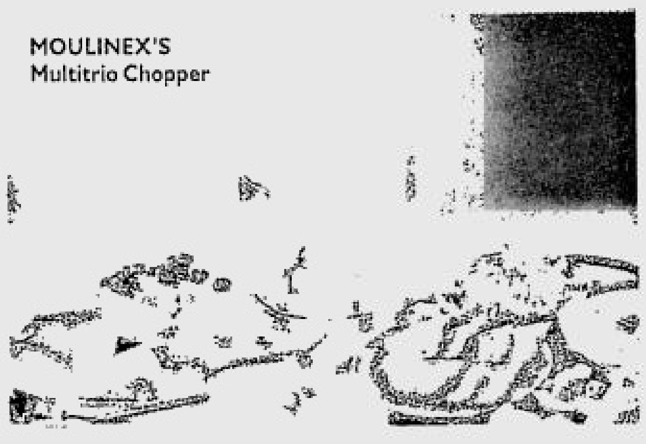
Another familiar dish in need of leftover food is the omelet. A French recipe is the Omelette aux Champignons or Flat Omelet with mushrooms.

Saute [illegible] pound thinly sliced mushrooms in 1 tbsp butter with garlic for about five-seven minutes. Then add leftover chicken meat, ham, and red and green peppers. Add salt and pepper to taste, and parsley. Allow to cool slightly. Beat 4-5 eggs and stir in sauteed ingredients.

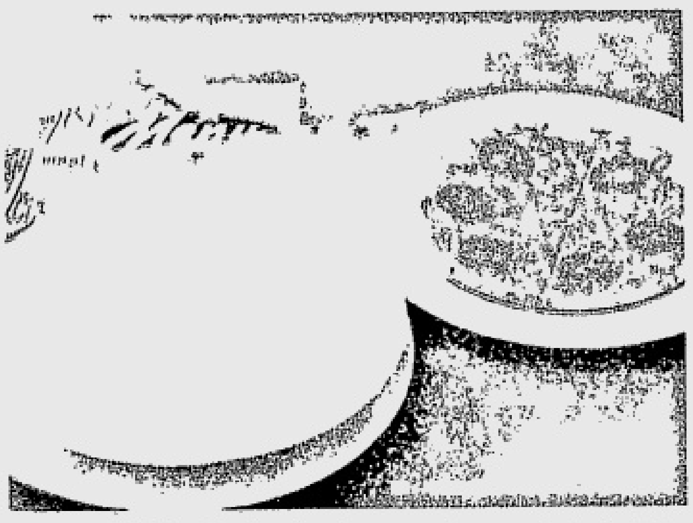
Heat the remaining butter in a nine-inch omelet pan over medium heat. When the butter begins to brown, add the mixture. Stir the eggs briskly using the flat side of a fork and continue stirring until the mixture is as thick as scrambled eggs.

Put a heatproof plate on top of the skillet and turn the omelet onto plate. Slide the omelet back into the skillet to brown the other side. Serve hot or cold, cut into half or wedges. Serve it with a salad for [illegible] light lunch or supper.

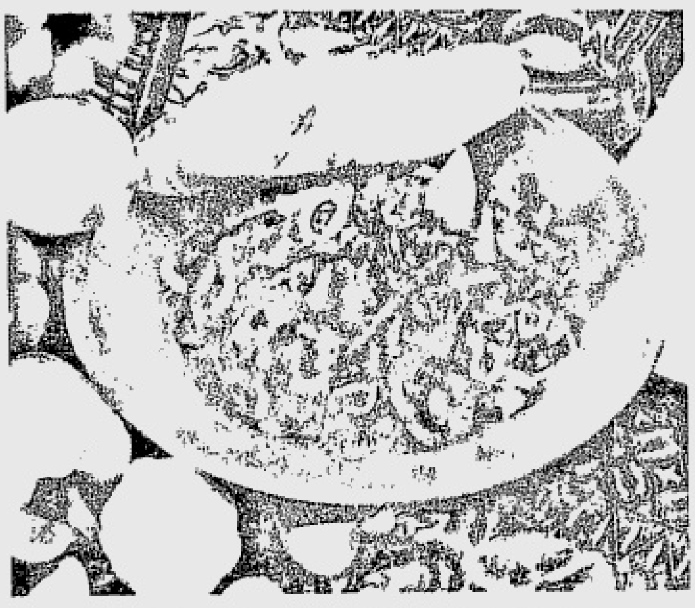
Moulinex of France, a world-renowned brand of small kitchen appliances, has various products like blenders, food processors, mixers, juice extractors and many other kitchen gadgets [illegible] and cooks whip up enti[illegible] in and out of the holida[illegible]



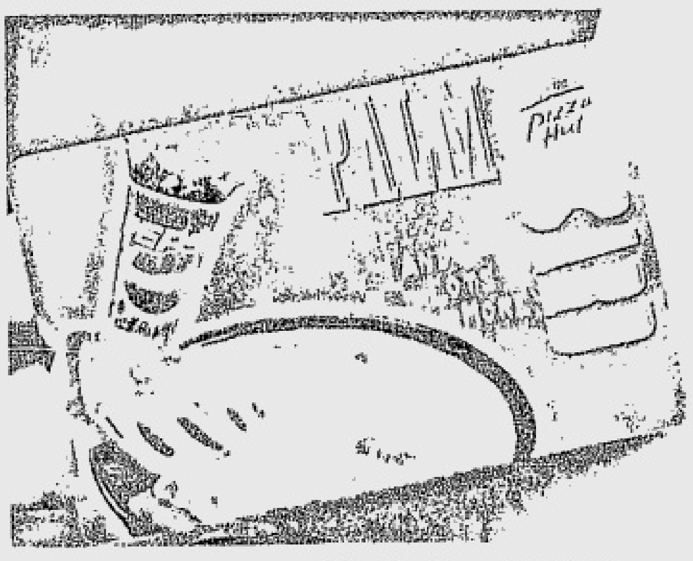
MOULINEX'S
Multitrio Chopper



CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen has a buy-one-take-one offering for kids on Jan. 5-10. Children 10 years old and below get a free CPKids meal when they order from the CPKids menu. Pizzas include Pepperoni, Original BBQ Chicken, Hawaiian or Mushroom Pepperoni Sausage. For dessert, there are CPKids Sundae and Kiddie Brownie. Available at branches in Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 3 and Alabang Town Center.



TEQUILA Joe's offers Sloppy Cow, My Baby's Back, Mandarin Chicken Salad and Popcorn Shrimps. It has outlets at El Pueblo, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, Robinson's Place Malate, Tomas Morato and Ayala Center in Cebu. Shown is the Marinara Pasta.



PIZZA Hut offers the Pizza Hut Palm Card. For only P200, Palm cardholders can get two pizzas for the price of one. Just present the card when buying a pan pizza and Pepsi, and get a Hawaiian pan pizza of the same size for free. The card is valid for dine-in purchases, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays excluding holidays, take-out and delivery orders.

Sweet New Year welcome

TREAT your family to a fruity dish specially prepared by gourmet chef Beth Romualdez with a little help from HP Barbecue Sauce, which is more versatile than catsup for sweet and savory dishes.

You can also enjoy HP Barbecue Sauce with your favorite holiday finger foods.

HP Barbecue Sauce is [illegible] quality product of HP Foods, Ltd., makers [illegible] Lea & Perrins Wo[illegible] sauce.

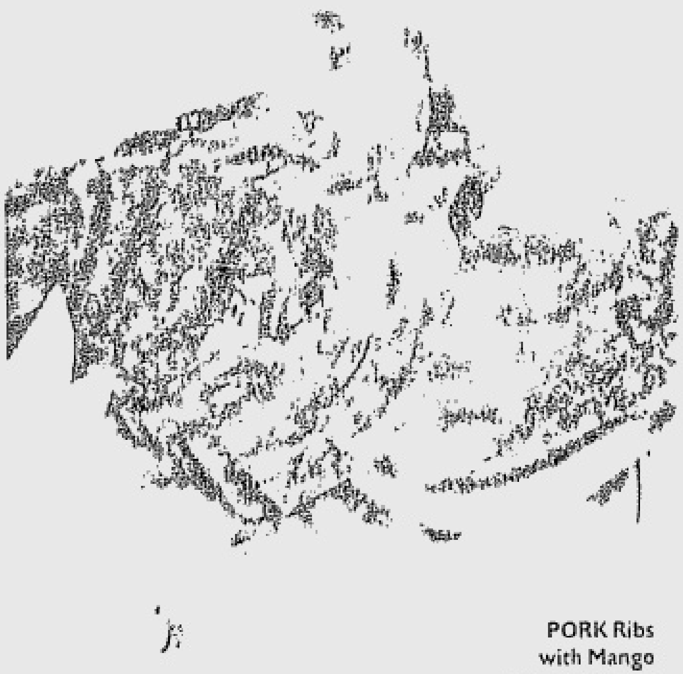
Pork Ribs with Mango Barbecue Sauce

1-2 slabs pork spareribs
1 tsp ginger, grated
6 cloves garlic, finely minced
1 tsp paprika
2 tsp dry mustard
2 tsp cayenne pepper
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcester[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] salt and pepper to [illegible]
HP Mango-Barbecue Sauce:
[illegible] HP Barb[illegible] Sa[illegible]
[illegible]
2 tsp [illegible]
2 tbsp [illegible]
2 tbsp [illegible]

Pre-heat [illegible] bowl, mix to[illegible] ents except the [illegible]. Spread mixture over both sides of the [illegible]

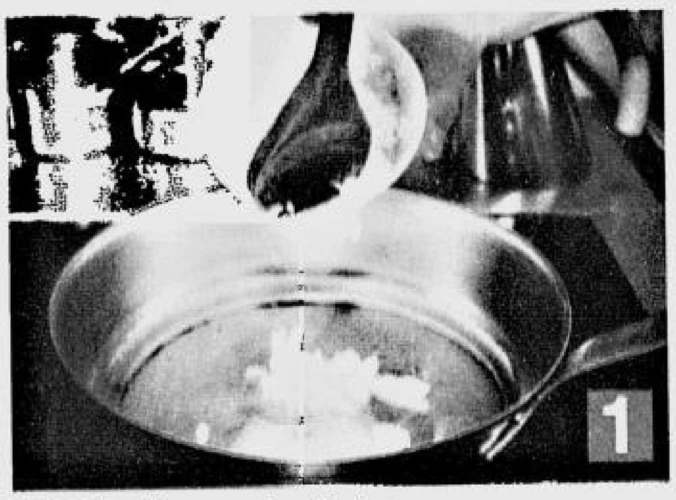
[illegible] HP Mango-Barbe[illegible] and ba[illegible] Serve with extra [illegible]

For added [illegible] prepare [illegible] charcoal until brown. For HP Mango-Barbecue Sauce, place all ingredients in a saucepan. Stir to blend [illegible] bring to a boil. Let [illegible]

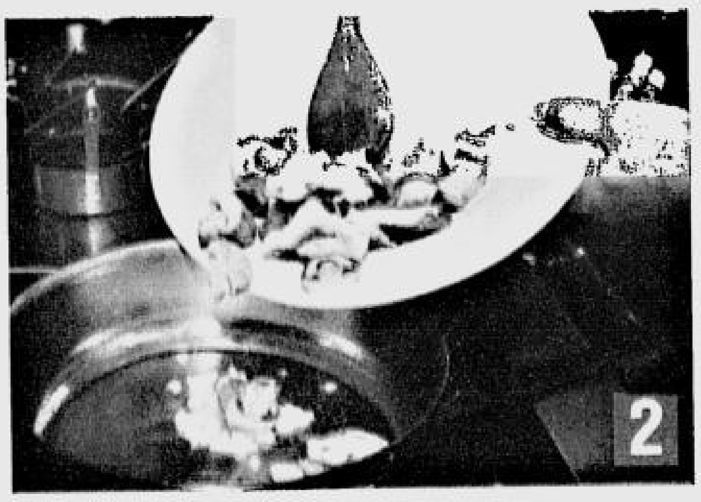


PORK Ribs with Mango Barbecue Sauce

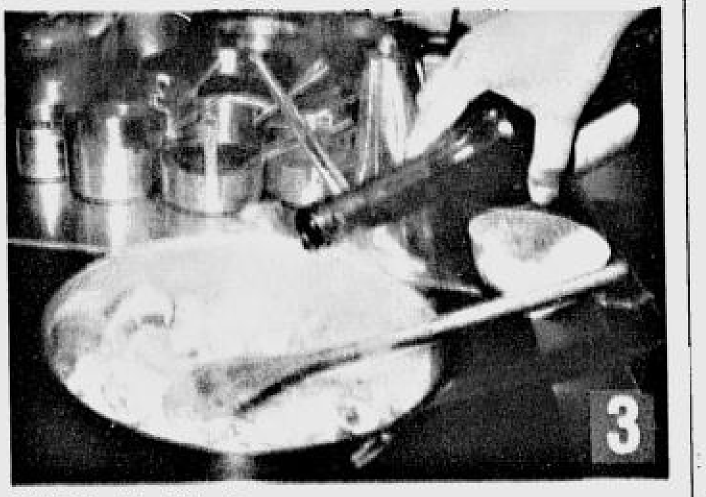
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



HEAT olive oil in a pan and sauté onions.



ADD mushrooms.



GLAZE it with white wine.

Creamy mushroom soup in a snap

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

FOR times when you want to serve hot, thick and creamy soup instead of simple comsomme, but you want to make it in a snap, try the all-time favorite mushroom soup.

"You can't go wrong with mushroom soup," says Chef Ariel Manuel of Lolo Dad's Café (899 President Quirino Avenue, Malate, Manila, tels. 5242295, 5267151). "But you can be more creative, even when time is short."

The soup is called Espresso of Woodland Mushroom Soup and Cream Foam, a special concoction by Manuel. Interestingly, instead of serving it in a regular soup bowl, Manuel serves it in an espresso cup and with breadsticks for a practical and pretty presentation.

STEP BY STEP

"You can enjoy the soup just like you're taking pleasure in drinking a coffee. With each sip, you savor the aromatic flavor of mushrooms," says the chef.

This mushroom soup, which can be completely done for 15 minutes or less, can be a meal in itself (just double the serving). Whenever you can, try to use a variety of mushrooms for a varied, interesting flavor. However, plain button mushrooms or shiitake mushrooms are great by themselves. The mushrooms are then pureed to smoothen the texture and intensify the flavor. A chicken or fish stock seasoned with wine, cream and butter adds to the luxuriously rich soup.

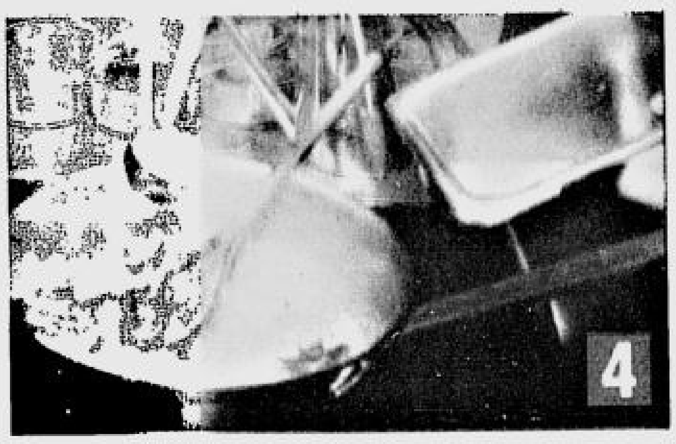
"Mushroom soup is great for lunch as an appetizer or a light dinner with bread and a salad," says Manuel.

Mushrooms are readily available in most supermarkets. Yield: 5-6 persons

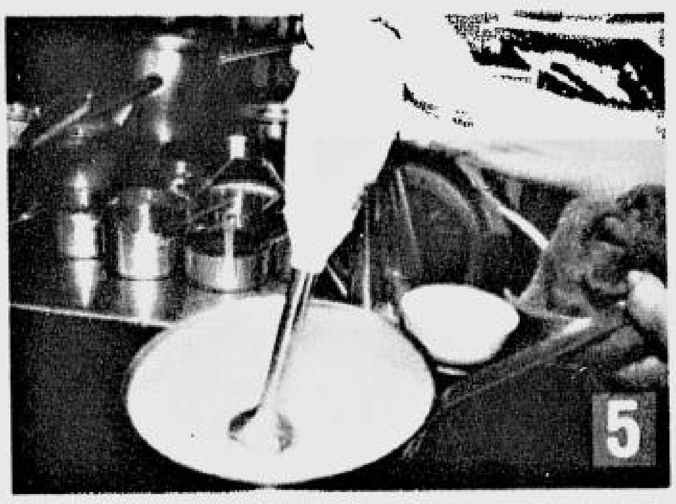
Ingredients

50 g shiitake mushrooms
50 g button mushrooms
15 g fresh butter, diced
1 liter chicken or fish stock
20 g chopped onion
½ c white wine
1 c fresh cream
2 tbsp olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



ADD stock and let it boil for 10 minutes. Gradually add cream and fresh butter.



PUREE using any type of food processor. (If using a blender, process the soup until smooth and return to pot.)

QUICK and easy-to-prepare Espresso of Woodland Mushroom Soup and Cream Foam.

PUT whipped cream on top just before serving.

TRANSFER and serve soup in an espresso cup.

Recipe for would-be tycoon

From page D1

with a tight-fitting lid. Shake vigorously until sugar is dissolved. Place in a squeeze bottle or cup with a pour-spout. Shave or grind ice.

· Scoop ice into bowls or cups. Pour syrup over shaved ice. 1/4 to 1/3 cup of syrup per cone will do.

I was about to ask you for a cassava cake recipe and I'm so glad I got it from your Sept. 18 column. I tried it at once and it's a big hit among family members.

I really love your fried chicken recipe. Do you have a gravy and Java rice recipe that will perfectly go with it? And also can I ask for a baked macaroni recipe that will be a New Year's eve treat?

Che

Given all the letters asking for one recipe or another, I'm sorry but Baked Macaroni is all I could spare.

Well, here goes. Have a great New Year!

Baked Macaroni or Spaghetti

Meat Sauce:
¼ c extra-virgin olive oil
4 tbsp butter
2 medium onions, finely chopped
4 stalks celery, finely chopped
1 carrot, finely chopped
5 cloves garlic, sliced
1 kg beef, ground
½ kg pork, ground
½ c cream
2 c stock or wine
1 (16-ounce) can whole peeled tomatoes, with the juices, crushed
Salt and pepper
1 c mozzarella
1 c cheddar, gruyere or emmenthal
1 c parmigiano

In a saucepan, heat olive oil and butter over medium heat. Add onion, celery, carrot and garlic and sweat over medium heat until vegetables are translucent. Add meat. Brown over high heat, stirring to keep meat from sticking together. Add cream, then stock or wine.

Simmer over low heat for 2 hours. Season with salt and pepper to taste and remove from heat.

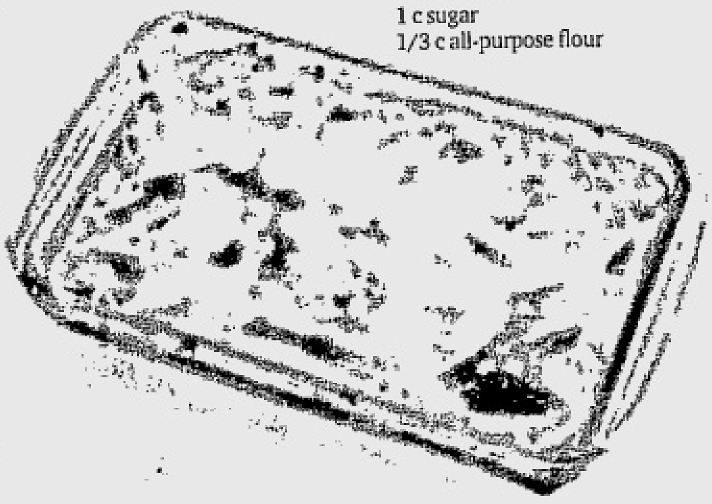
Toss with ½ kilo cooked macaroni or spaghetti

Top with béchamel and cheeses, bake at 350 for 20 minutes.

Bechamel:
6 tbsp butter
4 tbsp flour
3 c milk
2 tsp salt
½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg

In a medium saucepan, heat butter until melted. Add flour and stir until smooth. Over medium heat, cook until light golden brown, about 6 to 7 minutes.

Heat milk in separate pan until just about to boil. Add milk to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, whisking continuously until very smooth and bring to a boil. Cook for 10 minutes and remove from heat. Season with salt and nutmeg and set aside.



I wonder if you could share a good recipe of your Grand Marnier soufflé recipe similar to Le Soufflé's.

Samantha

Don't know if this recipe is like Le Soufflé's; all I know is that this is delicious! Indulge!

Grand Marnier Soufflé

1/3 c butter
1 c sugar
1/3 c all-purpose flour
1 cup milk
8 large egg yolks
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
zest of 1 orange
3 tbsp Grand Marnier or other orange liquor
8 large egg whites
Softened butter for buttering ramekins
Sugar for dusting ramekins

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Butter eight 1-cup ramekins and dust with sugar, knocking out excess sugar.

Melt butter and whisk in flour. Cook roux (the butter-flour combination), whisking, 3 minutes. Add milk and cook over moderate heat, whisking until mixture is very thick.

Transfer mixture to a bowl and cool.

In a bowl, whisk together yolks, vanilla, a pinch of salt, zest and whisk in milk mixture and Grand Marnier, whisking until smooth.

·In a bowl, with an electric mixer, beat egg whites until they hold soft peaks. Beat in 1 cup sugar, a little at a time, and beat the resulting meringue until it just holds stiff peaks. Whisk into yolk mixture with a rubber spatula in 3 batches.

Spoon batter into ramekins, filling them just to rim, and arrange ramekins at least 1 1/2 inches apart in a large baking pan. Add enough hot water to pan to reach halfway up the sides of ramekins and bake soufflés in middle of oven for 20 minutes, or until puffed and tops are golden.

Serve soufflés immediately with Crème Anglaise.

Crème Anglaise
1 milk
1 ½ c heavy cream
3 egg yolks
4 tbsp sugar
1 tsp cornstarch

In a heavy saucepan, bring milk and heavy cream just to a boil.

In a bowl, whisk together yolks, sugar, and cornstarch until slightly thickened and pale.

Add hot cream mixture in a stream, whisking, and transfer custard to pan. Cook custard over moderately low heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until a line can be drawn on the back of the spoon or until it reaches 180°F on a candy thermometer. Do not boil.

Serve cold.

Last week, I saw this chocolate chip muffin recipe from the Internet and since I love chocolate muffins I eagerly tried it, following the procedure carefully. But my muffin tasted like paper!

If you would be so kind, aside from chocolate muffins, blueberry and mocha walnut muffins are among my favorites, too.

Letlet Delgado

The general rule is when you cook, what you're cooking should not just look like what it is, but taste like it.

I don't know if you're an oil-based muffin fan or a butter-based one. Just substitute one for the other and play around with the ingredients.

Muffins

1 ½ c all-purpose flour
1/3 cup sugar
2 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
½ c butter melted or vegetable oil
1 c sour cream
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
Sugar for sprinkling

Preheat oven to 350°F and line 12 (1/3-cup) muffin cups with paper liners.

In a bowl, sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In a bowl, whisk together butter, sour cream, egg and vanilla. Beat 10 minutes.

Add flour mixture until well combined. Divide the batter among muffin cups (this batter is thick). Sprinkle with sugar and bake in middle of oven until golden and a tester comes out clean, about 20 minutes.

Variations:

Add: 1 c of mashed bananas or semi-sweet chocolate chips or nuts or corn or cup of chopped and drained canned pineapple.

If you want a lighter muffin, separate the eggs and beat the whites until stiff peaks form then fold in to the flour mixture.

All cooking and baking classes in the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will resume Jan. 9. Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162 and 6474744.

For the first time we are offering a fine selection of dishes to go. We have roasts—turkey, beef , salmon, seabass, lamb and duck, as well as paella, bacalao, salads, pasta, desserts, canapes, etc.

Metro Manila • Manila • Makati • Quezon City • San Juan • Parañaque • Las Piñas • Muntinlupa • Mandaluyong • Pasay • Pasig • Valenzuela • Taguig • Marikina • Caloocan • Malabon • Navotas • **Benguet** • Baguio • **Ilocos Norte** • Laoag • Dingras • Solsona • San Nicolas town proper • Batac town proper • **Ilocos Sur** • Vigan • Santa • Sta Maria town proper • Sto. Domingo town proper • Cabugao town proper • Sinait town proper • Candon • Narvacan town proper • Magsingal town proper • **La Union** • San Fernando • Rosario • Sto. Tomas • Nagtagaan • Agoo • Bauang • **Pangasinan** • San Carlos City • Dagupan City • Urdaneta City • Lingayen • Mangaldan • Calasiao • Alaminos • San Fabian town proper • Umingan town proper • Pozzorubio town proper • Manaoag town proper • Villasis town proper • Sta Barbara town proper • Binalonan town proper • Sison • San Nicolas • Sta. Maria • **Cagayan** • Tuguegarao • Camalaniugan • Sanchez Mira • Enrile • **Isabela** • Ilagan • Santiago • Cordon • Cabagan town proper • Alicia • San Mateo • Roxas • Tumauini • San Manuel • **Nueva Viscaya** • Bayombong • Solano • Bambang • Bagabag • **Bataan** • Balanga City • Mariveles town proper • Dinalupihan town proper • Orani town proper • Hermosa • **Bulacan** • San Jose del Monte City • Malolos City • Meycauayan • Sta. Maria • San Miguel • Baliuag • Hagonoy • Marilao • Bocaue • Calumpit town proper • Plaridel town proper • San Ildefonso town proper • Norzagaray • San Rafael town proper • Pulilan town proper • Guiguinto town proper • Bulacan town proper • Balagtas town proper • Obando town proper • Pandi town proper • Bustos town proper • Angat town proper • Paombong town proper • **Nueva Ecija** • Cabanatuan • San Jose • Talavera • Gapan • Muñoz • Cabiao town proper • Cuyapo town proper • **Pampanga** • Angeles City • San Fernando • Mabalacat • Lubao • Mexico • Arayat • Sta. Rita • Guagua • Apalit town proper • Magalang • **Tarlac** • Tarlac City • Bamban • Concepcion town proper • Capas town proper • Paniqui town proper • Gerona Town Proper • La Paz town proper • **Zambales** • Olongapo City • Subic town proper • Iba City • Sta. Cruz town proper • **Batangas** • Batangas City • Lipa City • Tanauan • Nasugbu • Rosario • Sto. Tomas • Bauan • Balayan • Calaca • Taal • Calatagan • Lemery • **Cavite** • Bacoor • Dasmariñas • Imus • Cavite City • Kawit • Silang • Gen. Mariano Alvarez • Tanza • Gen. Trias • Tagaytay • Carmona • Noveleta • Rosario • Naic • Trece Martirez • Alfonso • Puerto Azul • Indang • Mendez Nuñez • **Laguna** • San Pedro • Biñan • Sta. Rosa • Cabuyao • Calamba • San Pablo • Los Baños • Sta. Cruz • Nagcarlan • Paete • **Occidental Mindoro** • San Jose • **Quezon** • Lucena • Sariaya • Candelaria • Lopez • **Rizal** • Cainta • Taytay • Antipolo • Binangonan • San Mateo • Rodriguez (Montalban) • Angono • Cardona • Morong • Tanay • **Albay** • Legaspi City • Ligao • **Camarines Norte** • Daet • Jose Panganiban • **Camarines Sur** • Naga City • Iriga City • **Catanduanes** • Virac • **Sorsogon** • Sorsogon City • Gubat • **Aklan** • Boracay • **Capiz** • Roxas • **Iloilo** • Iloilo City • **Negros Occidental** • Bacolod • Bago • Kabankalan • **Bohol** • Tagbilaran • **Cebu** • Cebu City • Mandaue • Lapu Lapu • Danao • Talisay • **Leyte** • Tacloban • **Zamboanga del Sur** • Zamboanga • Pagadian • **Misamis Oriental** • Cagayan de Oro • **Davao del Norte** • Tagum • Panabo • **Davao del Sur** • Davao • Digos • **South Cotabato** • General Santos • Koronadal • **ROAD COVERAGE: North Luzon Expressway:** Balintawak to Meycauayan to Marilao • Balagtas to Guiguinto to Pulilan to Calumpit to Apalit to San Simon to Mexico to Mabalacat • **Bulacan Province to Nueva Ecija Province:** Guiguinto to Plaridel to Baliuag to San Ildefonso to San Miguel to Gapan to San Leonardo to Sta. Rosa to Cabanatuan City to Talavera to Muñoz to San Jose • **Tarlac Province:** Mabalacat, Pampanga to Bamban to Capas to Tarlac City to Gerona to Paniqui to Moncada to San Manuel • **Pangasinan Province:** Route 1 - San Manuel, Tarlac to Carmen, Rosales to Villasis to Urdaneta to Binalonan to Pozzorubio to Sison to Rosario, La Union. Route 2 - Urdaneta to Sta. Barbara to Calasiao to Dagupan City to Lingayen • **La Union Province:** Rosario to Sto. Tomas to Agoo to Tubao to Pugo to Marcos Highway • **South Luzon Expressway:** Alabang, Muntinlupa to San Pedro to Biñan to Sta. Rosa to Cabuyao to Calamba • **Laguna Province** to **Batangas Province:** Calamba, Laguna to Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Tanauan to Malvar to Lipa City to San Jose to Batangas City • **Batangas Province** to **Laguna Province** to **Quezon Province:** Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Alaminos, Laguna to San Pablo City to Tiaong, Quezon to Candelaria to Sariaya to Lucena City • **IN-BUILDING COVERAGE:** Robinsons Equitable Tower • Digitel Libis • Robinsons Summit Center • Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Place Pasig (Metro East) • Virra Mall Greenhills • Rustans, Ayala Avenue, Makati • DOTC Head Office • Robinsons Place Iloilo • Holiday Inn Galleria Manila • Robinsons Mall Fairview (Novaliches) • New World Renaissance Hotel • Robinsons Place Cebu • Cebu Midtown • The Westin Philippine Plaza • Robinsons Place Imus • Galleria Corporate Center • URC-CFC • Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga • Gokongwei Brothers Foundation • Ayala Center Makati • SM City North EDSA • The Powerplant, Rockwell, Makati • EDSA Shangri-La Hotel • SM Megamall A and B • SM Southmall • SM Centerpoint • Senate of the Philippines • SM Makati • SM Davao • Festival Mall • Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Robinsons Bacolod --and more!

With double the number of cellsites since our launch in April, Sun Cellular now gives you greater coverage.

Now, with an even more aggressive roll-out of an Edge-ready, 3G-ready GPRS network; more and more people can enjoy the benefits of the only state-of-the-art, future-proof telecommunications technology in the country. At Sun Cellular, we know what matters most to you. That's why we work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a continuing commitment to giving you strong, clear signals and delay-free communication -- anytime, every time.

THE SUN SHOPS : Robinsons Galleria 4th Flr • SM North EDSA Ground Flr Carpark Bldg • Robinsons Metro East Big R Lobby • Robinsons Place Manila Fountain Area • SM Southmall Level 2 • Robinsons Starmills Ground Flr • Robinsons Place Cebu 2nd Flr • Robinsons Place Iloilo Ground Flr • SM City Cebu 3rd Flr • SM City Davao 3rd Flr • Big R Cagayan de Oro 2nd Flr • Robinsons Place Bacolod 2nd Flr • SM City Fairview 2nd Flr • SM Centerpoint 3rd Flr • SM Megamall 4th Flr • Robinsons Imus Ground Flr • Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa Ground Flr • Festival Mall 4th Flr • Park Square One Ayala Center Ground Flr • Shangri-La Mall Ground Flr • SM Bicutan 2nd Flr

Enjoy great deals when you visit these SUN BLAST VENUES : Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Festival Mall • Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Ermita • Robinsons Metro East • Robinsons Dasmariñas • Robinsons Iloilo • Porta Vaga, Baguio • JY Square Discovery Mall, Cebu • Gaisano Mall of Davao

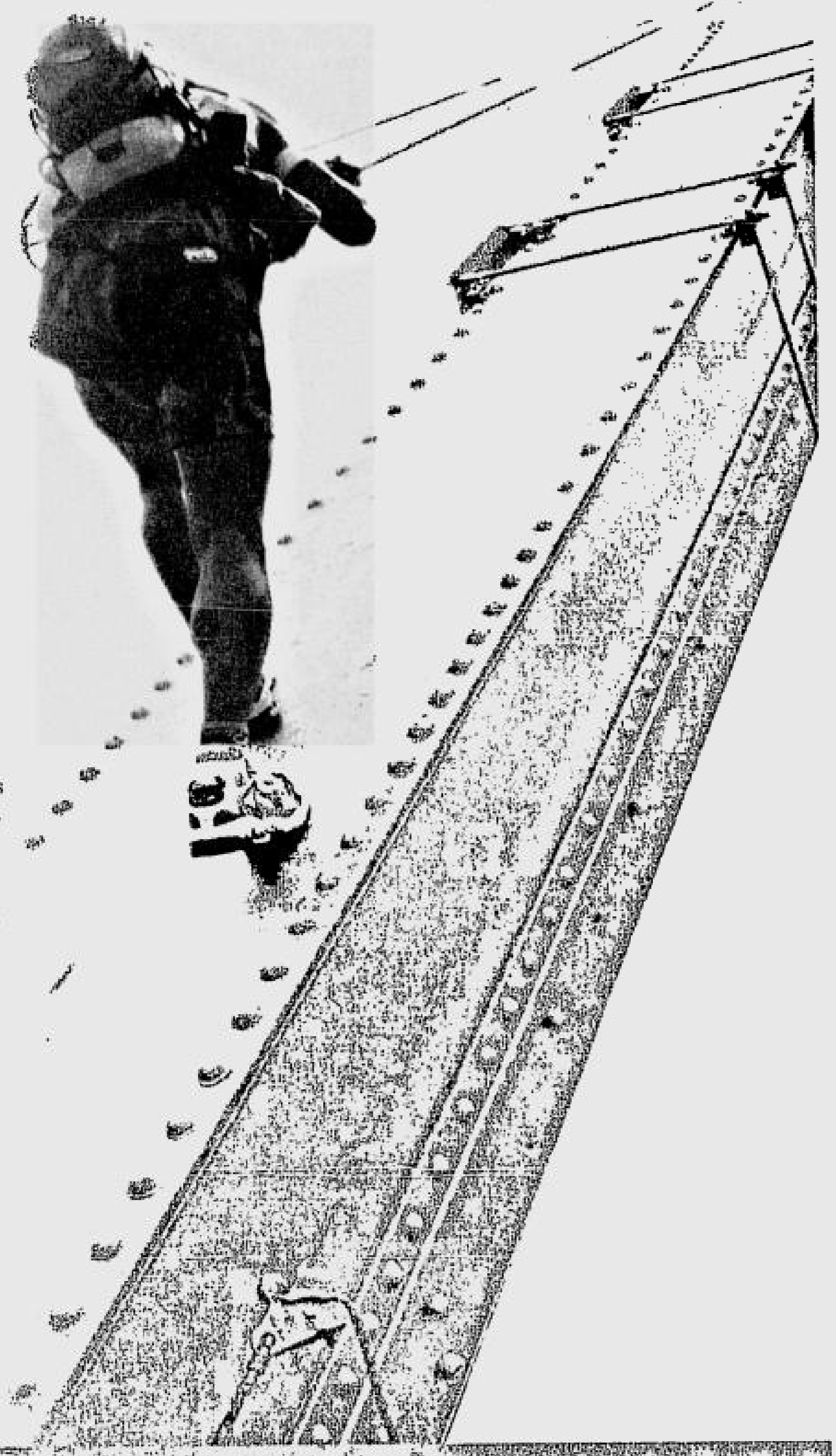
For more details contact our Hotline at (02) 395-8000 or visit our website at www.suncellular.com.ph

SUN CELLULAR

Everything Important is Under the Sun

What a *RUSH!*

Snapshots from the Edge with Addict Mobile



The Information Age in the Philippines was pushed to the edge in May 1st of this year. With a simultaneous launch amidst the fire of summer, from the locales of Boracay, Cebu, Baguio, Subic and Manila, Addict Mobile was born. Scorched earth has been left behind the trail of Addict Mobile as it continued to blaze a path throughout the country in 2003.

The host of events brought to you by Addict Mobile this year would exhaust even the most resilient of hard-core party goers. Addict Mobile almost owned the NBC tent this year with hot line-ups including Danny Howells, Robbie Agnelli, Spundae. Another Addict Mobile event at the tent this year that was hard to forget was the Tabu swimwear show featuring Amanda Griffin and Ciny Kurleto. The most talked about event at the Baguio Ad Congress was the Mansion Party featuring DJ Chris Coco with some bunnies shaking their tails.

Amidst the momentous and sometimes controversial launch of Addict Mobile, the service remains unparalleled in the Philippines. Addict Mobile is a content driven platform that is customized to the individual, giving them access to Multi Media Messaging Service delivering anything from sports, fashion, music, and even religion.

God Above All

Divine inspiration has not only been downloadable through your Addict Mobile handsets from its early beginning, but also the reason why this all exists. Addict Mobile has been proud to let their subscribers turn to their Saint of the Day calendars for hope or their daily need for mobile accessed Inspirations. Addict will soon be releasing the Soul Food service to feed the weary souls of youth.

Scorching Sports

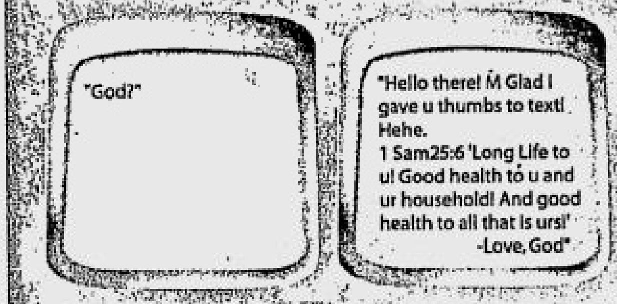
Leave it to Addict Mobile to give adrenaline jolts to athletes and spectators across the board. Ever wondered what it would be like to scale some of the oldest and tallest landmarks in Manila? Addict Mobile helped answer that question for those gutsy enough to dismiss heights at the AXN Challenge this year. Addict has climbed on board with Tuason Racing School to get the blood pumping as one hurtles behind the wheel through the track, with banking bodies mashed with intense G Forces. And for those who crave even more speed, Addict Mobile was proud to bring the Asian Formula 3 series, from the Subic to the Batangas Racing Circuits. Burning tarmac in excess of 220 KPH, this was an unprecedented show of speed on Philippine shores brought to you by Addict Mobile.

As to the more traditional rivalries that permeate the hearts of young fans throughout the country, Addict Mobile was proud to be part of the 66th UAAP championship. It was easy to get exclusive MMS downloads of the heroes of the hard court exclusively on Addict handsets, from the Final Four all the way to the University of the East crowned as the country's top cagers.

Upload and Download from Almost Anywhere

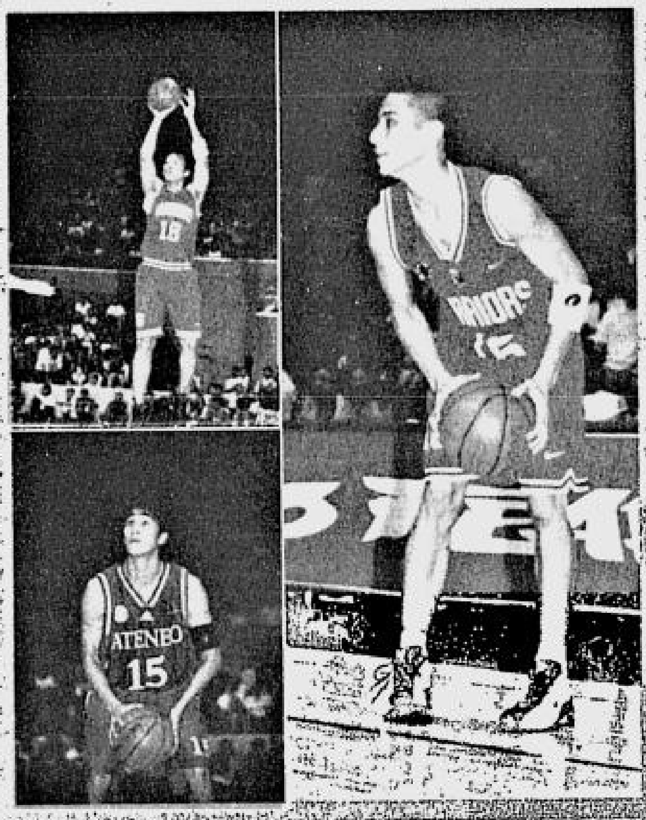
Addict Mobile's Multimedia Message Service has already given Filipinos the fastest access to information straight to the palm of your hand, with better coverage throughout the Philippines than any other mobile network or ISP. Going away this holiday season and want to show your friends back home some killer waves on the beach or the scintillating looker walking in front of it? Take a snapshot on your MMS phone and send it at the speed of thought to your envious friends back home. Need to access you email from a Cordillera mountain trail, or while still soaked from a white water rafting trip along the Chico River? Only one network provides that fix when and where you need it. Send them your instant MMS snapshots from the edge, only from Addict Mobile.

addicted to GOD
addict
Get hooked.

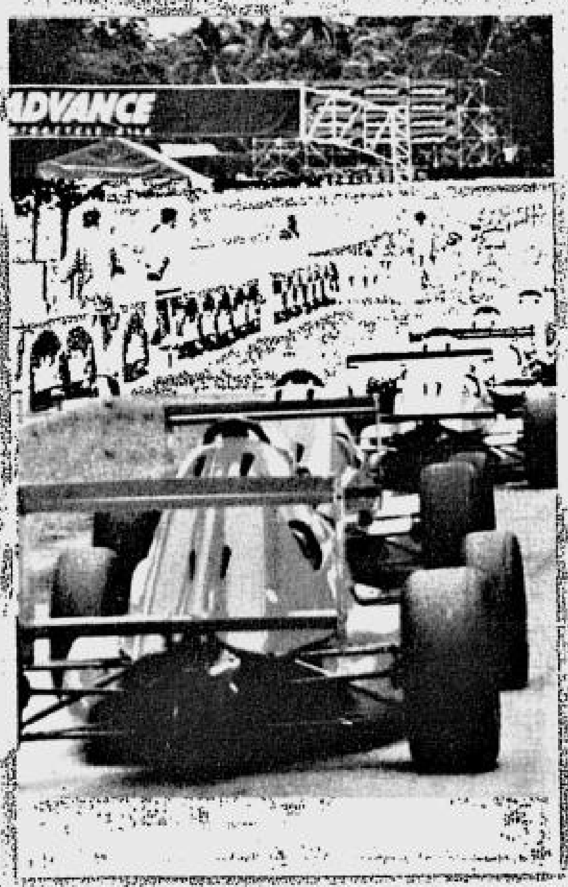


"God?"

"Hello there! M Glad I gave u thumbs to text! Hehe.
1 Sam25:6 'Long Life to u! Good health to u and ur household! And good health to all that is urs!'
-Love, God"

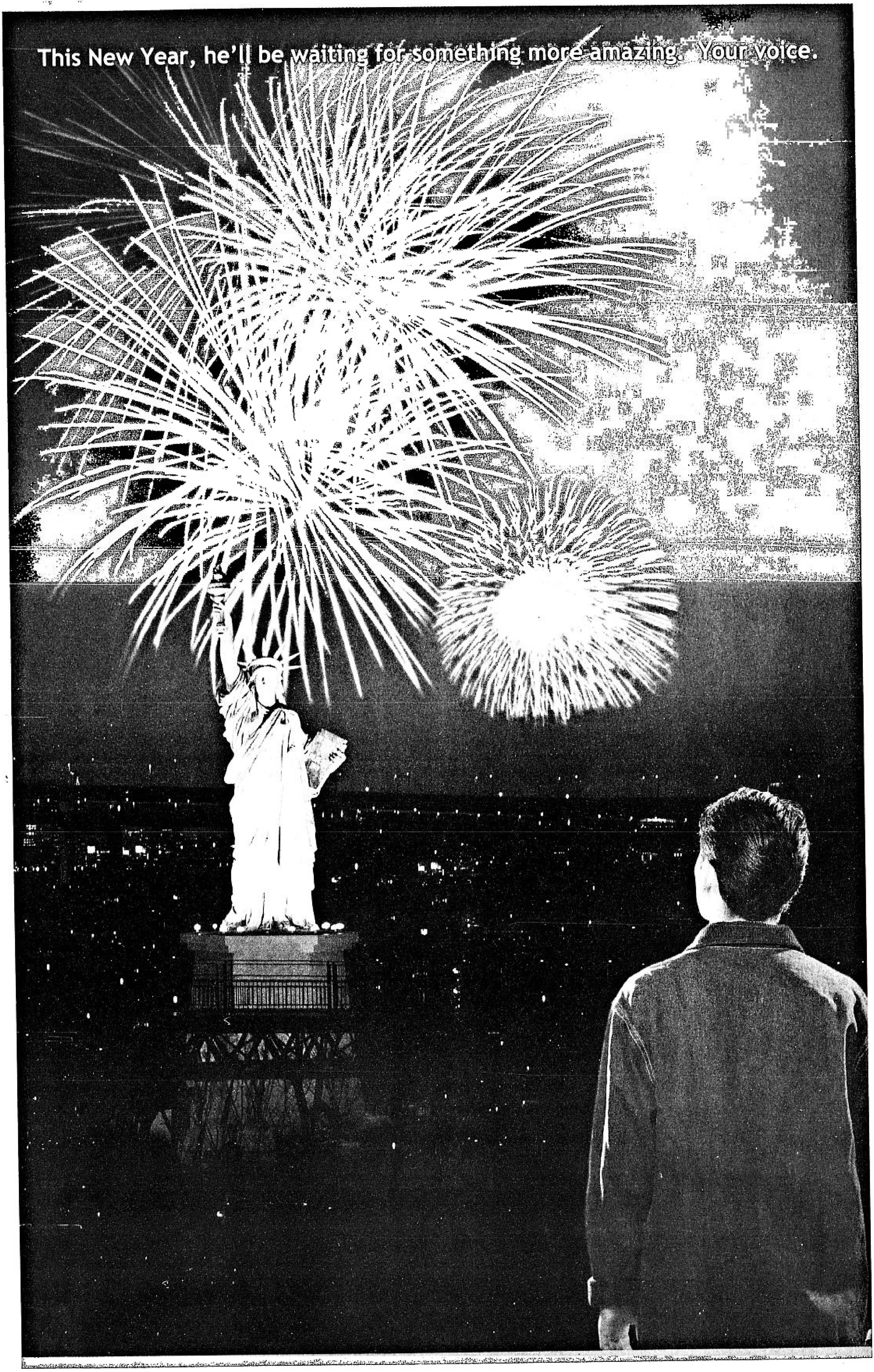


addict
MOBILE



START
AXN
AXN
The Heart of Action + Adventure

ADDICTED to fashiOn


This New Year, he'll be waiting for something more amazing. Your voice.

Smart Buddy Pre-Paid

Call abroad with Smart IDD. For just 40¢ a minute, you'll enjoy crystal clear conversations everytime. So be sure to make that Smart IDD call before the year ends, because hearing your voice will make his New Year happier.

Dial + • Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111.
In U.S. Currency. Applicable to over 200 destinations worldwide, excluding INMARSAT.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

IDD
40¢
a minute

RIZAL
TO THE MEMORY OF
JOSE RIZAL

Journey to the Heart
of the Filipino Family
with SMART'S IDD's Pamilyang Pinoy

Nothing can break a family bond, not the expanse of oceans or the gap of international time zones. Perhaps the Filipino family is the most resilient residents of the Global Village, as our relatives have spanned to almost every corner of Earth yet we still manage to remain a tight family unit. Smart is proud to be a pivotal part of the Filipino family, as it tightens the bonds that keep the family close despite the distances between them. To further close the gaps between us and our loved ones, Smart IDD embarked on Handog ng Smart sa Pamilyang Pinoy, a northern Luzon road trip that had taken all of us to the heart of the Filipino family.

Looking for the Heart in the Heartland

Love truly has no bounds, and it has been evident in every place the Pamilyang Pinoy road show has taken us. Traveling to the northern provinces, the Pamilyang Pinoy road show set out to find the heart of the Filipino family. They never found the one true heart anywhere, because they found it everywhere. Every Filipino family tells a different story, and they all have different reasons for being apart. The commonality these families share is that love is the reason that they are not together, and Smart IDD is there to help preserve that love and close that distance. And to help us remain closer to those who are far away, Smart IDD's Pamilyang Pinoy lets you earn free load for every IDD call you make.

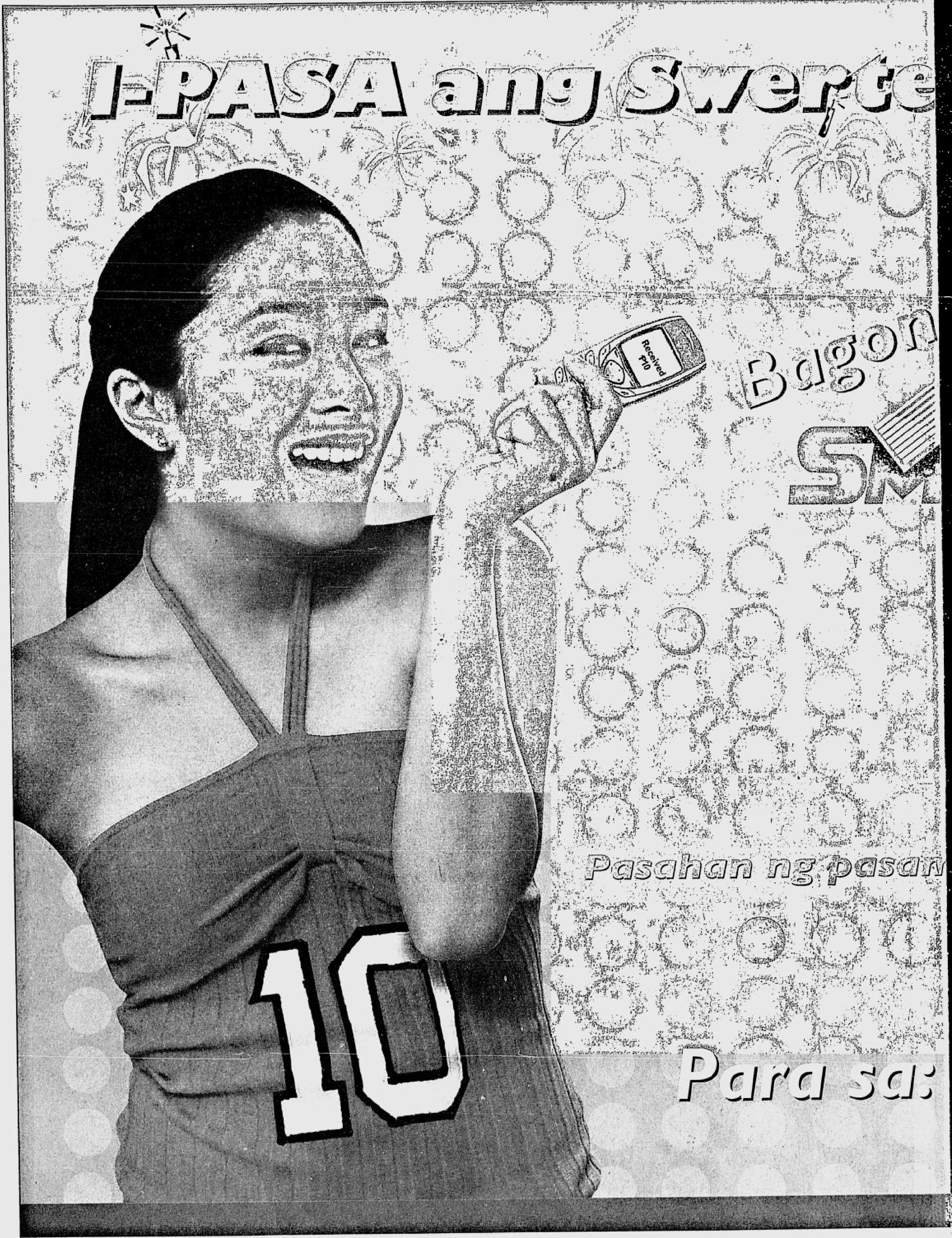
All it takes is 10 minutes worth of IDD calls a month to get a rebate of P10. The more you call, the higher your rebates, with up to P200 free load back monthly while calling abroad for only 40 cents US a minute.

To get your load rebated to you, simply text REG <space> your name <space> address <space> then type in "NA" and send it to 433. The more you call, the more free load you receive. You can earn as much as P200 load credited to you in a month with a minimum of 100 IDD call minutes. The more you call, the more someone far away realizes how close they are to your heart.

Show You Care

Your loved ones abroad are waiting to hear from you. They have sacrificed so much for you, and when was the last time you thanked them? Add some warmth to those you love who are working with the chill of winter. Lighten up the day for your loved ones carrying the heavy burden under the dessert sun. Smart IDD's Pamilyang Pinoy has made it easier for you to be with them, as the sound of the voice makes its way easily to the strings of the heart.

SMART IDD
40¢


I-PASA ang Swerte
Received
P10
Bagon
SM
Pasahan ng pasan
10
Para sa:

Pasahan ng ₱10 Load ang mga kaibigan!

Kung panawid-tawag lang ang kailangan ng magkakaibigan, meron nang Smart PasaLoad! Now you can give or receive a ₱10 load sa friends mong Smart Buddy o Talk 'N Text! ₱1 lang per send, valid pa for 24 hours!

Madali lang mag

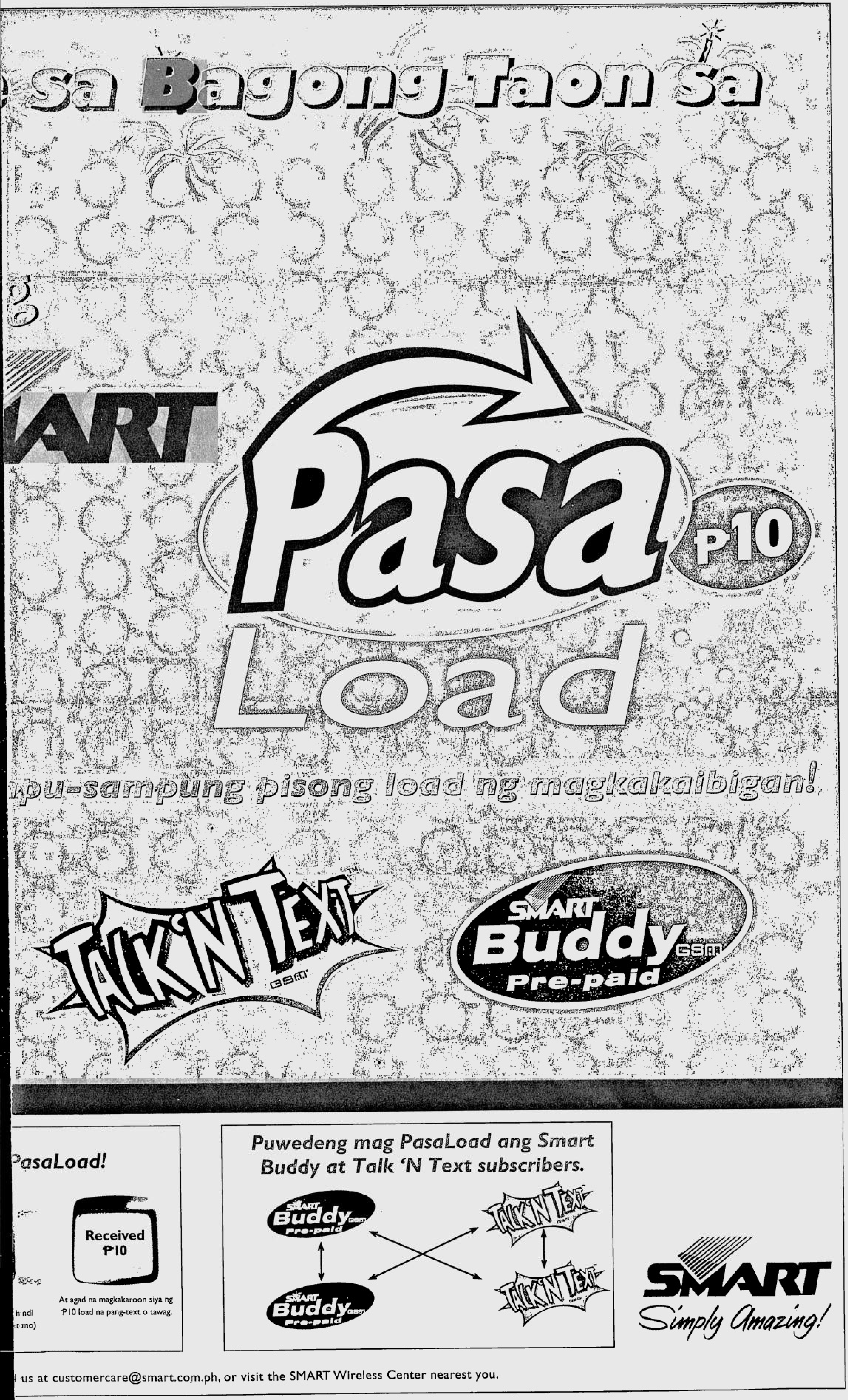
<0919-
XXXXXXX>

I-type lang ang number ng
Smart Buddy or
Talk 'N Text subscriber.
(Recipient)

808

At i-send to 808!
(Ang ₱1 per send charge ay
puwedeng i-credit sa free te

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Text PASA to 888 (₱1.00 per message sent) or Call the SMART hotline at 888 1111, or * 888 (toll free), emai



e sa Bagong Taon sa

g

ART

Pasa P10 Load

pu-sampung pisong load ng magkakaibigan!

TALK 'N TEXT GSM

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid

asaLoad!

Received P10

At agad na magkakaroon siya ng P10 load na pang-text o tawag.

hindi

t mo)

Puwedeng mag PasaLoad ang Smart Buddy at Talk 'N Text subscribers.

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid

TALK 'N TEXT GSM

SMART

Simply Amazing!

us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Share SMART's P10 PasaLoad with Your Pal!

Help each other stay in touch this New Year with Smart's new PasaLoad. Now Buddy or Talk N' Text subscribers can forward a P10 Load to any of your friends with Smart Buddy or Talk N' Text phones, just to share a little in this time of giving. It doesn't take much to share and show you care with PasaLoad, another first from SMART.

What about the times you run out of load but you still need to be connected fast? It is even worse when you are caught without your wallet. Ask a friend when you are in need for a quick reload anytime, anywhere with P10 PasaLoad! Simply ask any Buddy or Talk N' Text subscriber to send you the P10 PasaLoad directly from their cellphone! And since your Buddies and Pals are on the same Smart network, there is no problem getting your Pass-A Load from a Buddy phone to Talk N' Text, and vice versa. No need to stop by the store, and for only P10 pesos you can stay connected!

All you have to do is ask a pal to text your cellphone number and send it 808 and you will be notified of the P10 PasaLoad loaded directly to you. They will also be sent a message stating that P10 is transferred from their load to yours. Senders will be charged P1 for the PasaLoad. It is that easy and quick. Never has it been lower to stay connected with Smart!

Your new P10 PasaLoad is valid for 24 hours so you have nothing to slow you down. Whether it is a time of need or a time to share, your pal is always there!

₱10 load
₱10
₱10

The Joyce of StarTxt

Joyce Jimenez looks especially effervescent today. That sunny smile and bubbly humor are set on extra high; she is a luminous aura from across the table. "Well thank you," she beams after we gush on how much more beautiful she looks lately.

She sports a charming modern schoolgirl bob. All in all Joyce is looking definitely more athletic, more toned and energetic. "I don't deprive myself of what to eat," no strict calorie-counting for her," I just burn everything off at the gym." She spends a good two-hours each workout.

Just Text Her...

In fact, Joyce has become such a fixture in beauty and fashion that droves of textmates ask her through SMS for her advice on health and wellness tips. "I've even been asked for my opinions on relationships," she twinkles.

In a sense, Joyce has given her number to millions of people through SMART's innovative new service StarTxt. Subscribers receive her regular quotes and observations as well as the tips on living that have honed this young lady into the dynamic figure she is today. In that pretty head dwells an active, engaging mind.

It's Really Joyce On Your Phone!

"I read all their messages to me everyday," she says of her daily digest of StarTxt messages, " I feel so grateful that so many have made me part of their lives." And that is exactly what SMART StarTxt is, an interplay between stars and their followers, a valuable point of relations. Subscribers hear their stars' very own words and thoughts on their cellphones and in return stars get insight and critique from their most crucial source—their audience.

"Once I got a message from a man who asked me what he should get his wife for their anniversary. It was all so sweet; I told him what I thought would be best for their special day." Joyce can "talk" with her followers like never before. And perhaps it is this that lends an extra bounce to her step these days.

The Voice You Hear, The Text You Receive

2003 was a trying time for the Philippine economy. More and more Filipinos looked for alternative means to earn some income, while also providing for their families. The economic pinch is felt even more during this past holiday season. To answer this need, Talk 'N Text started a community outreach program that not only allows Filipinos a convenient means to start a new business, but also provides a means for bringing more Pinoys together through a simple celfone.

Talk 'N Text Tawag 'N Text Partner has provided even the remotest parts of the country with a means of communicating with loved ones through both calling and texting. Thus, Talk 'N Text has provided Public Calling and Texting Centers nationwide, capitalizing on Talk 'N Text's "nationwidest" coverage. In every sense, you become a "partner" of Talk 'N Text as we provide you with the celfone start-up kit and access to the over 3,500 cellsites on the SMART Network, while you essentially begin a new business.

As a true innovative move from Talk 'N Text, the Tawag 'N Text Partner program is a means for Talk 'N Text to give back to the community that made us a dynamic force in communications. Talk 'N Text sees this as a humble contribution to nation building: assisting Pinoys everywhere in starting their own livelihood programs while allowing them to call and text their loved ones wherever they may be.

Practically anyone can become a Tawag 'N Text Partner, simply by saving up for the very affordable Talk 'N Text celfones and applying for the Tawag 'N Text Partner kit at any SMART Wireless Center. Talk 'N Text made the package so affordable for people to start their own business thru several ways of entering the program.†In fact, people can band together to save up for a Talk 'N Text Tawag 'N Text Partner celfone kit and start their new business together. In a sense, we're bringing the Filipino's classic trait of "bayanihan" back as well. Talk 'N Text even went the extra mile, assisting them in taking care of their registration with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in their business endeavor.

This program serves a few purposes: providing Filipinos an innovative means to start their own little business, helping their individual barrio's communications needs by being a Tawag 'N Text partner, and bringing families and friends closer once more for the holidays. We at Talk 'N Text have a strong belief in keeping traditional Filipino values and beliefs alive, and also believe in the entrepreneurial spirit in each Filipino. Talk 'N Text hopes that with this humble service, we're bringing something dynamic for every Pinoy to look forward to in the new year.